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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 34

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2012

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



## OPINION METER

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do you think is  
the worst?

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## INSIDE

### ASIA



Hope fades of finding any survivors  
among 71 people still buried in  
landslides. **► PAGE 20**

### WORLD



The European Union will impose  
harsher sanctions on Syria.  
**► PAGE 21**

### LIFE & STYLE



A judge grants Katy Perry and Rus-  
sell Brand a divorce. **► PAGE 25**

**CNMI yet to spend \$34M of \$119M in ARRA funds. PAGE 2**  
**UMDA: Palms Resort not sold yet. PAGE 3**

## Sources: No sign Romero was raped

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**T**here were no signs that Emer-  
ita "Emie" Relata Romero, the  
37-year-old bartender who was  
found dead at the abandoned La  
Fiesta Mall in San Roque Tuesday afternoon,  
was raped, according to sources at the De-  
partment of Public Safety.

Police sources and a family member  
disclosed that the victim's clothes and  
underwear were still intact when FBI  
agents found her body at the northern-

most part of La Fiesta. The sources re-  
fused to elaborate.

**See SOURCES on Page 4**



Romero

## Woman raped, nearly kidnapped

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

An unidentified man beat up and raped  
a woman at knifepoint inside her bed-  
room in western Garapan last Jan. 29.  
Police released the information to the  
media only last night.

The suspect also tried to kidnap  
the victim by attempting to take the  
victim with him to his car at knife-  
point, but she managed to escape by  
yelling for help.

The suspect was described as in his  
late teens to early 20's, brown com-  
plexioned, very short hair, about 5'5" to  
5'8" tall, and weighing 150 to 170 lbs.

The victim, a 25-year-old Asian,  
sustained unspecified injuries. Med-  
ics brought her to the Commonwealth  
Health Center.

According to the Department of  
Public Safety, a female caller con-  
tacted DPS on Jan. 29 at 6:06am and  
reported a disturbance at an apartment

**See WOMAN on Page 4**

## Philippine Consulate to shut down

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
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REPORTER

Citing budgetary constraints, the Phil-  
ippine Consulate General on Saipan  
will shut down sometime in July or  
August, after more than two decades  
of serving the Filipino community in  
the CNMI.

Consul General Medardo Macara-

**See CONSULATE on Page 4**



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Philippine Consul General Medardo  
Macaraig conducts a news briefing at  
the Consulate on the fifth floor of the  
Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe to  
announce the closure of the consulate  
middle of this year.



## Fire engulfs Trench Tech Gym

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A fire broke out at the  
Trench Tech Gym in San  
Antonio Wednesday night  
that lasted until early yes-  
terday morning. The gym's owner be-  
lieves it was intentionally set off.

No one was reported injured in the  
blaze that also engulfed the adjacent

warehouse, which used to be occupied  
by Kalayaan Catering Co.

Cuki Alvarez, one of the owners of  
Trench Tech, told *Saipan Tribune* that the estimated  
loss in terms of equipment  
alone is between \$35,000  
to \$40,000.

"It's a total loss, complete loss," Alva-  
rez said.

He has a strong feeling that it is an

Police officer Jason Tarkong, left, and  
Trench Tech Gym owner Cuki Alvarez  
stand in front of the gym in San An-  
tonio that was engulfed by a blaze  
Wednesday night. Tarkong and Alva-  
rez are both mixed martial artists.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

arson case, considering the fact that the  
gym is in "a very sound building."

He said his nephew who works at the  
Department of Public Safety called him  
on Wednesday at 11:05pm to tell him

**See FIRE on Page 4**



# Local

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## As ARRA winds down, CNMI yet to spend \$34M of \$119M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

With the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program winding down, the CNMI has yet to spend \$35 million of \$119 million awarded it as of Dec. 31, 2011, and remains with the least amount received among U.S. states and territories.

Of the total amount awarded, the biggest chunk or \$48 million went to education, while the smallest amount of \$1.8 million went to health.

Energy/environment received \$39 million so far, while transportation got \$15 million among 10 types of public needs that received ARRA money along with infrastructure, family, public safety, research and development/science, housing, and job training/unemployment.

Based on the latest data from federal tracking agency recovery.gov, the amount awarded as of Dec. 31 is almost the same amount received in the previous quarter ending Sept. 30. This may be an indication that \$119 million is the peak amount that the CNMI will ever receive under the ARRA program.

Recovery.gov updated its data on Jan. 30, showing that the CNMI was awarded \$119 million from Feb. 17, 2009, through Dec. 30, 2011.

Of this amount, over \$85 million has been spent and \$34 million more has yet to be spent or drawn down.

This is because 20 ARRA projects are over 50 percent completed, 14 that are less than 50 percent completed, and three not started at all. Recovery.gov data shows 20 completed projects in the CNMI.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) said yesterday that ARRA funds

"helped the CNMI tremendously, there is no doubt about it."

"As for audit and progress report, I know there are both federal and local agencies that will ensure that it will be done as per ARRA grant requirement," Yumul told *Saipan Tribune*.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said it is important to know how agencies, especially the Public School System, will be able to cope without any more ARRA money.

"What will happen to PSS? There were lots of teachers hired because of ARRA money, but when ARRA is done, what will happen to those teachers and what would be the impact on students?" Camacho asked.

With the fiscal year 2013 budget being prepared, he said it would be wise to ask agencies about their plans post-ARRA.

U.S. territories receive much less in ARRA money than the 50 U.S. states whose ARRA awards range from \$663 million in Wyoming to \$33 billion in California.

The CNMI, with a population of 53,883, got the least ARRA money of \$119 million, much lower than American Samoa's \$299 million and with a population of 55,519.

Integrated Professional Solutions LLC, which bagged a sole-source contract from the Fitial administration, manages ARRA money awarded to the central government directly. The IPS contract will end in April. The CNMI central government received some \$88 million in direct awards to various agencies.

ARRA money managed by IPS is separate from ARRA money applied for and received by autonomous agencies such as an \$8 million award to IT&E and some \$28 million to Sandy Beach Homes Project.

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## UMDA: Palms Resort not sold yet

The United Micronesian Development Association's board chairman, Joe Lifofoi, denied yesterday a report that came out in a Korean newspaper that Palms Resort Saipan had been sold to a Korean company.

He admitted that the hotel is for sale but clarified that no formal transaction has occurred to date. He said "negotiations are ongoing" with potential buyers, one of which is Korea-based E-Land Group.

Lifofoi refused to disclose the price tag for the UMDA-owned hotel, saying nothing has been finalized yet.

The *Korean Herald* reported early last month that E-Land has

bought for an undisclosed sum two hotel resorts on Saipan: the Palms Resort Saipan and the Pacific Islands Club.

E-Land Group is reportedly one of the biggest fashion and retail firms in South Korea and has major business interests in hotels, condominiums, and construction.

Known as the former Nikko Hotel, Palms Resort is a 14-story, 313-room hotel across the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque. UMDA acquired it in February 2008 for \$3 million and renamed it Palms Resort. In 2010, it announced major renovation plans that resulted in the layoff of its more than 100 employees. *(Moneth G. Deposa)*

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# December arrivals up 6 percent

December 2011 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were up 6 percent compared to December 2010, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

In a statement yesterday, MVA said that arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota registered 33,418 visitors in December compared to 31,572 in December 2010. November and December both posted increased arrivals this calendar year compared to last year.

Arrivals from Japan dropped 8 percent to 13,094 in December, as the NMI received only two daily flights from Narita for most of the month, compared to three daily flights in December 2010. However, due to

high demand during the peak travel season, Delta Air Lines launched a third weekly flight again on Dec. 29, and Asiana Airlines re-launched daily service from Osaka on Dec. 22.

Arrivals from Korea were up 8 percent to 11,345 visitors. Asiana Airlines continued to operate Busan-Saipan charter flights launched in November, as well as its two daily Incheon-Saipan flights using a Boeing 767 with 250 seats on the daytime route and an Airbus 321 with 177 seats on the nighttime run.

“The overall increase in visitor arrivals for November and December has had a direct and positive effect on government revenue,” said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. “To

sustain this benefit, we still need to support these added flights with adequate promotions.”

Arrivals from China increased 59 percent in December to 5,708 visitors. This December the NMI received six flights weekly from China, compared to only two flights weekly last December.

Arrivals from Russia posted an increase of 20 percent to 673 in December 2011, and increased were also registered from the United States (2 percent to 788) and Hong Kong (185 percent to 94).

Arrivals were also down in December from the Philippines (2 percent to 47), Guam (9 percent to 1,402), and Other Areas (2 percent to 267).

## WOMAN

From Page 1

near Bud’s Bar. Responding police officers arrived after two minutes and saw the victim running toward them.

According to the victim, she was asleep inside her bedroom when she was awakened by the suspect who physically and sexually assaulted her at knifepoint.

The suspect then attempted to take the victim with him to his car, but she shouted for help. Witnesses near the

area came to her aid and called 911.

The suspect fled the scene in an older model yellowish gold Hyundai Accent four-door sedan. He drove north on Plumeria, made a right turn to Micro Beach Road, and traveled east toward the Fire Station-Beach Road intersection.

The car continued east without stopping at the three-way stop at the Garapan Fire Station, and made a right turn on Chalan Pale Arnold (Middle Road) where the witness lost sight of him.

“Additional details will be provided

as new information is made available. This case is currently still under investigation. DPS seeks the community’s help in locating the suspect’s vehicle and in reporting any information leading to the positive identification of the suspect,” said police officer Jason Tarkong.

The victim’s apartment is located just blocks away from Godfather’s Bar, where Emerita Relata Romero worked as a bartender. Romero was reported missing Sunday early morning. Her body was found at the former La Fiesta Mall on Tuesday afternoon.

workers constantly seek the assistance of the Consulate in order to ensure that they are in compliance with new requirements brought about by the federalization of immigration,” added Fitial.

### Petition

Macaraig revealed that he met with Filipino community leaders last Feb. 8, before the official announcement.

“A lot of them were disappointed,” he said. “Nevertheless, we have to send them this information as it may affect their lives and their stay here in the Northern Marianas.”

Rudy Francisco, former officer of Movers and was among the over 40 attendees during Wednesday’s meeting, said it will be difficult to lose the consulate on Saipan.

“I was surprised that this was their final decision,” he told *Saipan Tribune*. “The Filipino community leaders who attended the meeting have agreed that we will launch a petition to stop the closing of the consulate.”

He recognized the need for a consulate in Guam but also pointed out the demand for a consulate on Saipan.

“We will try to gather as much signatures as possible for our petition,” he added.

United Filipino Organization president Bong Malasarte said that losing the consulate would be a challenge for Filipinos in the CNMI since it is not easy to travel to Guam.

Moreover, he said, justifying that the consulate’s closure as a means to save resources does not make sense for Filipinos in the Commonwealth given that it will not be the Filipino workers who will benefit from this plan.

“I know that there are those who do not think that they will be impacted by the shutting down of the Consulate but they will be because they would need consular services one way or another. How can they access these services if we don’t have an office here? We need to keep the consulate open,” said Malasarte.

## FIRE

From Page 1

that a fire had broken out at the gym.

Alvarez arrived at the gym at 11:10pm and saw that the fire was already out of control, with flames and smoke coming from the top of the building.

He said he learned that the fire started in the gym’s storage area.

Alvarez said the gym would usually open 5:30pm and close at 8:30pm everyday.

He said two of his mixed martial arts fighters were the last to leave the gym at 9pm on Wednesday.

Trench Tech Guam has been occupying the one-story building for over four years now. Vicente “Ben” Babauta owns the building as well as the adjacent one-story building formerly occupied by Kalayaan Catering.

Alvarez said his gym is not insured.

When asked about his plans, Alvarez

replied: “Rebuild. Stay positive. Rise from the ashes!”

Police officer Jason Tarkong said that investigators are still looking into the cause of the fire. Tarkong said he has been training and teaching at the gym for almost four years now. “This is my second home.”

On the night of Jan. 14, a fire of unknown cause razed an abandoned building adjacent to the former Kalayaan Catering.

Last Jan. 12, an abandoned barracks located across Hopwood Junior High in Chalan Piao also went up in flames. The fire was believed to be an arson case.

Four other fires occurred that weekend—two houses and a classroom in Chalan Kanoa, and a tin house in Sugar Dock.

Last Nov. 17, three fires broke out in close vicinity of each other—San Antonio, Chalan Piao, and Chalan Kanoa. Investigators suspected that two of those fires were intentionally set of.

## SOURCES

From Page 1

DPS has yet to release the results of the autopsy conducted by Guam chief medical examiner Aurelio A. Espinola to determine the victim’s cause of death. Espinola performed the autopsy at the Commonwealth Health Center’s morgue Tuesday night until Wednesday midnight.

DPS has classified the case as a homicide. DPS has not released any information since the body was found Tuesday afternoon.

Romero’s sister, Estrellita “Lhet” Relata, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they are planning to bring her remains to Bulacan, the Philippines, early next week.

Relata said they are still waiting for the release papers from authorities

before they can bring the body to the Philippines.

Relata and her brother Eduardo Relata will also be going to the Philippines for Romero’s burial.

Romero’s husband and two daughters—ages 17 and 8—are currently in the Philippines.

Relata said that the FBI and DPS have assured them that they will work hard to arrest the suspect.

She thanked the authorities, the management of Godfather’s Bar, friends, and relatives for offering prayers and providing them assistance.

The family, relatives, and friends, started holding nightly rosaries at Romero’s residence Thursday at 7pm.

Romero was last seen alive on Sunday around 3am boarding a green or blue tinted sedan in the parking lot of Call-A-Ride Saipan on Chichirica Avenue corner Kadena Di Amor St. in Garapan.

## CONSULATE

From Page 1

ig made the announcement in a news briefing at the Consulate, located on the fifth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, saying their responsibilities will be transferred to the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam, as part of a wider effort to consolidate foreign service posts in the Pacific.

Macaraig said that they have already begun preparations for the transfer of responsibilities to the Consulate General in Guam.

“During this period of transition, the Philippine Consulate General in Saipan, the Philippine Consulate General in Guam and the Department of Foreign Affairs shall endeavor to effect the smoothest transition possible during this period,” Macaraig read the official statement.

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan opened its doors to the Filipino community on April 3, 1989, under the direction of then Consul Julius D. Torres, now the Consul General in Hawaii.

Its closure would mean that the estimated 8,000 to 9,000 Filipinos in the CNMI will no longer have direct access to consular services such as passport renewals, issuance of overseas employment certificates, and membership with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, which is an attached agency along with the Philippine Overseas Labor Office.

Also, Filipino workers will no longer be able to avail of free training courses that the Consulate, through POLO, offers to the community on a quarterly basis.

Macaraig said in an interview before the briefing that DFA’s decision will affect some 12 Consulate employees on Saipan, two of whom were hired locally and “will have to be let go.” The remaining staff will head back to their headquarters in Manila.

Macaraig disclosed that he has been in constant communication with the head of the Consulate in Guam to facilitate the transition process.

When asked if there are any efforts to make it easy for Filipinos in the CNMI to travel to Guam to avail of consular services, Macaraig said that travel to Guam or any part of the U.S. is “within the purview of U.S. immigration officials and federal government.”

“But what we can do is to recommend to our Consulate in Guam to come here as often as possible, similar to what we are doing for the Filipino community on Tinian and Rota,” he added.

According to Macaraig, they will hold mobile consular services on Tinian and Rota to accommodate the needs of Filipino workers there before they totally shut down.

Macaraig would not confirm other Philippine foreign service posts that will also be closed down.

### Dismay

The Fitial administration expressed dismay yesterday about this new development despite earlier reports discussing this eventuality.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial noted the importance of having a consulate on Saipan given the “significant” number of Filipinos in the Commonwealth.

“The Consulate has always been instrumental in providing assistance to its citizens living and working here,” Fitial said in a statement. “Moreover, the CNMI government has enjoyed a very healthy working relationship with Consul General Macaraig and his predecessors.”

Macaraig met with Fitial weeks ago to inform him about the possibility of shutting down the Consulate. But the governor “was still hopeful that DFA would reconsider its plans” by taking into account the new CNMI-only transitional worker system that has impacted Filipinos workers.

“This is a period when Filipino

## 2 groups chip in \$1K to reward pot

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Two more groups have stepped forward to offer cash rewards for any tips or information that would lead to the arrest of the person or persons responsible for the death of Godfather’s bartender Emerita “Emie” R. Romero.

3S Saipan Security Service and Saipan City Taxi Association offered a \$1,000 reward yesterday in hopes of helping solve the case of Romero, 37, whose body was found Tuesday at the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque.

Rabby Syed, president of both 3S Saipan Security Service, a company that provides security services, and Saipan City Taxi Association, a corporation composed of some 18 taxi operators and drivers on island, said that the amount was collected from members and employees of their groups.

“We are saddened by what happened to Emie Romero and we hope that this amount would encourage anyone who has information about the case to come out and help in the investigation,” he told *Saipan Tribune*. “Our members and staff are also extending our condolences to the victim’s family.”

Syed said it is imperative that justice is served for Romero who is described by her family and friends as

a devoted mother, a generous sibling, a loving daughter, a dependable employee, and a sweet friend.

“We want to bring the individual or individuals responsible for Emie’s death to justice,” he said.

Syed, who is also the president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said that Romero’s case is an unfortunate incident just like the disappearance of the Luhk sisters last year.

This latest incident, Syed said, has caused widespread panic and alarm in this “beautiful island.”

“They are scared, they’re in fear. It is very unhealthy,” he said.

With federal and local authorities working in the case, Syed is optimistic that the matter will be resolved soon.

Syed urged the community to be vigilant and work together to bring peace and security to the islands.

“We should all be careful and open our eyes to things happening around us to protect each other. That’s how we can eliminate this kind of incident in our community,” he added.

Last Wednesday, Bridge Capital LLC and Pacific Amusement, Inc. each donated a \$5,000 reward for any individual who can provide information to help Romero’s case. All cash rewards would supplement the \$1,000 initially offered by Crime Stoppers for any information leading to an arrest.



# Completion of Saipan airport runway rehab pushed back

The rehabilitation of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport's main runway will take longer than expected due to problems that were found during actual construction work, according to the Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday.

Funded by the Federal Aviation Administration, the Saipan runway project began in 2009. Its original target completion date was October 2011 but this was later revised to February 2012. Now the

## CPA to take over Outer Cove Marina

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will soon take over full responsibility and operation of the Outer Cove Marina following revelations yesterday that the Executive Branch is in the process of completing the transfer documents.

Seaports facility chair Benigno Sablan told the board at their regular meeting yesterday that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had confirmed the facility's impending transfer to CPA.

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources currently has responsibility over the marina after the approval of the sub-

new deadline is June 2012. The project's total cost is at \$21 million to date.

According to CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, this project has been on hold since October 2011 because the materials available on Saipan do not meet FAA requirements and that 4-inch deep cracks were discovered in the middle of the runway.

CPA also found that the contractor, Guam Pacific Power Corp. Inc., has been following an obsolete design, which is

merged land lease agreement between the Marine Revitalization Corp. and the CNMI government.

Sablan said the official takeover may take less than a year.

Once the transfer is complete, he said that CPA will be responsible for entering contracts with boat owners, assessing fees, inking consignment agreements, and enforcing regulations.

The board discussion yesterday focused on the need to renovate and develop the marina in order for it to generate money for CPA. *(Moneth Deposa)*

about six years old.

"We need to clarify with FAA whether or not we can submit a modification to reduce [the materials] requirement because the materials we have on Saipan cannot reach the FAA requirement. So this stopped the project as well as the design used when the project was bid out," he said. FAA eventually gave the green light to the modifications after a series of consultations.

Deleon Guerrero said all these problems have been addressed and construction will continue on Feb. 16. He said the new completion date is on June 3, 2012.

The airport's main runway was first built 25 years ago. *(Moneth Deposa)*

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## Fitial urged not to sign zoning bill, comments on recycling bill

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial not to sign a local bill that makes massive changes to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 so that the "progress and improvements" made as a result of the law won't go to waste.

Chamber president Douglas Brennan said the business organization "strongly opposes" House Local Bill 17-26, Substitute 1, as the bill is "counterpro-

ductive" to the purpose of the original zoning legislation.

"Through the enactment of the original zoning law...and the improvements that have come as a result of slow and gradual changes as to how our businesses and communities are organized, we are making progress. That progress and those improvements will essentially be eliminated with the signing of HLB 17-26," Brennan said in

a Feb. 4 letter to Fitial.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the Fitial administration is still reviewing the local bill, introduced by Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan).

Brennan, moreover, said the Chamber believes that "business development throughout the CNMI needs to be well thought out and meticulously planned in order to enhance the natural beauty and unique culture of our islands."

chair Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), raising concerns about House Bill 17-208, which seeks to establish a recycling deposit fee and payment program.

While the Chamber agrees with the bill's intent to address pollution and environmental concerns, solid waste disposal

and the islands' natural beauty, he said the method outlined in HB 17-208 "does not adequately address those concerns."

Brennan said the bill's recycling plan already exists "and there are those already collecting for profit doing exactly that." (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

## Boy Scouts to cap Scouting Week with picnic

The CNMI Boy Scouts of America will culminate its Boy Scouting Week celebration with a picnic on Saturday, 9am, at the American Memorial Park Pavilion.

District Commissioner Wayne Gillespie said yesterday that this year's celebration marks the 101st anniversary of scouting in the U.S.

"We are inviting all Scouts and any boy who is interested in becoming a Scout to attend," Gillespie said.

Gillespie said there will be games, activities, and free food for Scouts whose age range is from first to 12th grade. "The emphasis will be on fun," he added.

National Boy Scout Week is from Feb. 5 to 11.

Gillespie also said that they putting a "strong focus" on the recruitment of male or female adult leaders.

CNMI Boy Scouts of America said that an adult leader must be at least 21 years old, of good moral character, has no felony record, and alcohol- and drug-free.

"Volunteers do not have to have experience in scouting and we have more positions than just Scout Masters available," Gillespie said. "We really need a strong turnout of volunteer candidates!"

Gillespie encouraged community members "who might be interested in becoming involved in scouting to also drop by and speak with us about the wide range of positions we have open."

For more information, call Gillespie at 483-0885. (*Clarissa V. David*)



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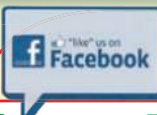
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## Time served for man who tried to fly to LA using fake papers

The federal court has sentenced a man who tried to sneak aboard a Los Angeles-bound flight to 203 days of time served in jail. Upon his release, Dongjun Li shall serve one year of supervised release.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Tuesday also or-

dered Li to pay a \$200 special assessment fee.

Li's sentence was at the recommendation of assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton and defense attorney Mark Scoggins.

Manglona remanded Li back into the custody of U.S. Immigration after the hearing.

Last Friday, Manglona reset

Li's hearing to Tuesday, Feb. 7, but freed him since he has been in custody for more than six months now, when the maximum recommended sentence is only six months.

A federal jury last October found Li, a Chinese national, guilty of immigration fraud and

false statement.

The document fraud was related to Li's possession and use of fake parole documents when he tried to check in for a trip to California on July 15, 2011, at the Saipan International Airport using fake papers. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## Cultural centers' activities

The Tinian Cultural Center is offering free lessons on making *mutsiyas*, *pilota*, and *finademi' dinanchi* to Chamorros and Carolinian on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012 at the Man'amko Center. The lessons are from 9am to about 12pm.

This Saturday's activities at the Rota Chamorro Cultural Center (in the DCCA

office compound) include making Bayogu ant dolls, coconut shell bracelet, beads bracelets, and dry seed ornaments. The lessons on Rota start at 10am.

For more information, call 433-9220 on Tinian and ask for Raymond Sablan, and 532-9350 on Rota and ask for Beck Kani.



### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Josie Valiente, who is celebrating her birthday today, Feb. 10, 2012! May the good Lord shower you with blessings on your special day and may you have many more birthdays to come! Greetings come from your dearest friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 10, 1999

### Legislators slam Miller

Members of the CNMI Legislature yesterday slammed as yet another threat to its self-governance a proposed rider in an appropriation bill in the U.S. Congress that will amend the tariff-free treatment of local goods as well as make any raise in the federal minimum wage level applicable in the commonwealth. Since it will be done through a legislation that will certainly get support from U.S. lawmakers, they said the proposal will undermine the authority of the island government to control its labor and immigration in view of its impact on the CNMI economy. "Those are serious implications on our Covenant," explained House Majority Floor leader Ana S. Teregeyo.

### Students must face scholarship reforms

Students who are enjoying local educational grants will have no choice but to live with the future reforms that will be introduced in June by the CNMI government. CNMI Scholarship Director Hilaria K. Santos and Teacher Academy Coordinator Joan B. Kani both shared this confidence that students could cope with present realities. Santos said off-island students have been notified that educational aid for the summer term was suspended. This was also confirmed by Special Education Advisor Dan Nielsen who is drafting a letter to advise recipients of the \$15,000 cap for full scholars and amendments on the other statutory programs.

Feb. 10, 2000

### Fight takeover—legislators

Stunned by the U.S. Senate's approval of the federal immigration takeover bill, two members of the Legislature yesterday called for active lobbying campaign in Washington to block its passage in the House of Representatives. To draw support from the lower house, a delegation from the CNMI should also travel to the U.S. capital to personally appeal against the legislation that will extend federal immigration laws to the island. S. 1052 was passed by the nation's senators on Monday, becoming the first measure to reach both chambers of the bicameral body in Washington D.C. amending CNMI's self-governing status as provided under the Covenant.

### Bank assets reach \$571M

In what appears to be a sign of strong financial infrastructure in the Northern Marianas, bank assets have reached over \$571 million during the third quarter of last year, according to a report prepared by the Department of Commerce. Total deposits amounted to \$555 million during the third quarter of 1999, slightly up from the previous quarter's \$554 million. The 1999 Quarterly Bank Report noted that deposits during the first three months of last year reached \$529 million. Savings deposit from both the government and the private sector dropped from \$203 million during the second quarter of last year to \$191 million the following year. First quarter deposits totaled \$204 million.

Feb. 10, 2003

### Supreme Court fines AGO \$250

The Supreme Court has fined the Attorney General's Office \$250 for filing an appeal that magistrates described as "frivolous." The High Court also directed the AGO to pay plaintiffs Guo Qiong He and Yi Gong Chen the amount of their expenses in opposing the appeal, including incurred attorney's fees. Associate Justice Alexandro Castro, together with Justice Pro Tempore Virginia Sablan Onerheim and Kathleen M. Salii, signed the order. The Supreme Court's ruling was in connection with two cases separately filed by He and Chen at the Superior Court, accusing the government of violating their federal civil rights. The two were nabbed by immigration officers without a warrant of arrest at a Saipan garment factory in 1997. They were eventually ordered deported.

### Online program seeks NMI students

Taking up a quality online course is neither easy nor cheap; it takes commitment and active participation from both students and the institution, according to University of Phoenix Online regional director for Asia and the Pacific Rim Jason Schrott. "People think that an online course is easy and cheap. Both of these are misnomers. To run a high quality education in an online environment that is instructor-led requires a lot of resources, and a lot of commitment from many people," said Schrott. He made the remarks when asked on issues relating to quality control and academic integrity.

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<b>Bar S Jumbo Franks</b> <b>\$1.29</b> /PKG.	<b>Springfield Cola</b> <b>\$11.99</b> /CASE	<b>Rice Stick</b> 8 OZ. 16 OZ. <b>\$1.19</b> <b>\$1.99</b>	<b>Flour Stick</b> 8 OZ. 16 OZ. <b>99c</b> <b>\$1.89</b>	<b>Onions</b> <b>79c</b> /LB.	<b>Carrots</b> <b>99c</b> /BAG	<b>Cabbage</b> <b>99c</b> /LB.	<b>Garlic</b> <b>99c</b> /PACK	<b>Potato (Jumbo)</b> <b>99c</b> /LB.	<b>Orange</b> <b>99c</b> /LB.			
<b>Hormel Chili No Beans</b> <b>\$1.89</b>	<b>Hormel Corned Beef Hash</b> <b>\$1.99</b>	<b>Ox &amp; Palm Corned Beef</b> <b>\$2.99</b>	<b>Black Label</b> <b>\$1.79</b>	<b>Libby's Vienna Sausage</b> 5oz. <b>69c</b> <b>\$10.99</b> /CASE	<b>Armour Vienna Sausage</b> 5oz. <b>69c</b>	<b>Ace Diamond Tuna</b> <b>\$1.39</b>	<b>Bumblebee Tuna</b> <b>89c</b>	<b>Sunflower Tuna</b> <b>\$1.29</b>	<b>Coco Tuna</b> <b>\$1.29</b>	<b>Master A1 Tuna</b> <b>\$1.29</b>	<b>Ligo Sardines</b> 3 for <b>\$1.00</b>	
<b>Hunts Pork &amp; Beans</b> 390g <b>99c</b>	<b>Dinty Moore Beef Stew</b> <b>\$1.99</b>	<b>DelMonte Whole Kernel Corn</b> <b>89c</b>	<b>Sunflower Mackerel</b> 15 oz. <b>\$2.49</b>	<b>Campbell Chicken Noodles Soupo</b> 1 Case Limit <b>99c</b>	<b>Kimchee Base</b> 450G <b>\$5.99</b>	<b>Kikkoman</b> 1.6 L. <b>\$3.99</b>	<b>Salt</b> <b>89c</b>	<b>Gold Medal Flour</b> 5 LBS. <b>\$3.49</b>	<b>Maseka Flour</b> 5 lb. <b>\$3.99</b>	<b>Best Food Mayonnaise</b> 64 OZ. <b>\$7.99</b>	<b>Corn Starch</b> 1 LB. <b>99c</b>	
<b>Ichiban</b> <b>\$10.99</b> /BOX	<b>Nong Shim Korean Soba</b> <b>\$7.99</b> /CASE	<b>Hoffy Portuguese Sausage</b> <b>\$2.39</b>	<b>Miller Sausage</b> <b>\$16.99</b>	<b>Golden State White Distilled Vinegar</b> 5 GALLON/BOX <b>\$3.99</b>	<b>Vlassic Dill Pickles</b> /CASE <b>\$5.99</b>	<b>Fresco Vegetable Oil</b> 1 GALLON <b>\$9.99</b>	<b>Salad Oil Tin</b> 5 GALLON <b>\$29.99</b>	<b>Salad Oil Plastic</b> 5 GALLON <b>\$32.99</b>	<b>Minola Lauric Oil</b> 1 Gal <b>\$8.99</b> LIMIT 1	<b>Royal Spaghetti</b> 1 Kg. <b>\$2.49</b>	<b>Royal Salad/Elbow Macaroni</b> 1 Kg. 2 for <b>\$5.00</b>	
<b>Fiesta Spaghetti Sweet Blend Sauce</b> 500g. <b>\$1.79</b>	<b>Kellogs Corn Pop</b> 12.5 OZ. 2 for <b>\$5.00</b> EACH <b>\$2.99</b>	<b>Fita/Skyflakes/Sunflower Crackers</b> 850 G. <b>\$3.99</b>	<b>Foremost Milk</b> 1 LITER <b>\$20.99</b> /CASE	<b>Anchor Milk</b> 1 LITER 1 CASE LIMIT <b>\$18.99</b> /CASE	<b>Real Fresh Milk</b> 1 LITER <b>\$21.99</b> /CASE	<b>Magnolia Water</b> 35 BOTTLES <b>\$8.99</b> /CASE	<b>Iciss Water</b> /CASE <b>\$5.99</b>	<b>Exo'Assam Black Tea</b> 24 CANS <b>\$8.99</b> /CASE	<b>Magnolia Juice Mix</b> 2 for <b>\$3.00</b>	<b>Coffee Mate</b> 50oz <b>\$8.99</b>	<b>Maxwell House Coffee Mix</b> 100 STICKS <b>\$7.99</b>	<b>Sugar</b> 2 KG. <b>\$2.99</b>
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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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Volume XXII, Issue No. 34Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
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### EDITORIAL

## Egypt's police state and democracy cannot coexist

The military-led government in Egypt appears to have learned few lessons from the disastrous mistakes leading up to President Hosni Mubarak's ouster from power almost exactly a year ago. Denying democracy and continuing to impose the iron fist of dictatorship is the surest way to stoke a revolution, as Mubarak and other Arab dictators learned to their detriment.

Blaming internal unrest on outside agitators makes for easy scapegoats but does little to answer the real economic and human rights concerns behind Egypt's ongoing street protests. Aside from the scapegoat argument, there is no justification for the leadership's effort to prosecute 19 Americans among 43 pro-democracy workers on charges that their nongovernmental groups illegally used foreign funds.

The Americans include Sam LaHood, director of the International Republican Institute and son of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. Sam LaHood is among six Americans who are being blocked from leaving Egypt.

Both the IRI and its Democratic Party counterpart, the National Democratic Institute, were created in 1983 under the aegis of the National Endowment for Democracy. Their taxpayer-funded work around the world provides staffing for election-observer missions, helps fledgling political parties organize and creates building blocks for democratic governance.

They were on the ground providing training as countries such as Haiti, Iraq, Afghanistan and Serbia emerged from years of brutal dictatorship and embarked on the uncertain path toward democracy. Aside from promoting the formation of secular parties, these groups are pledged not to intervene politically. They urge civic involvement and a free press, and prod women, the poor and minority groups to participate.

The irony is that some of the beneficiaries of this training, including workers from Serbia, Romania and Lebanon, are among those facing trial in Egypt.

According to the NDI, security forces raided the organization's offices in three Egyptian cities even though they provided no warrant or explanation. It's unclear what law the police were enforcing as they seized equipment, documents and money, then left. The National Democratic Institute has been accredited in Egypt since 2005 and has never been asked to stop its work or close its offices.

These actions can only deepen the growing divide between the United States and Egypt, endangering a friendship that once earned Egypt the mantle of America's closest Arab ally. If Egypt's leadership cannot be swayed by the logic of democracy, perhaps it is time for Washington to follow through with threats to curtail the U.S. aid that was scheduled to pump \$1.5 billion into Egypt's fragile economy this year. As Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said Friday, "The days of blank checks are over."

There is no such thing as a democratic police state. Egypt's leadership must stop concocting excuses to delay the transfer of power.

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THE LOST COMMANDMENT

## Autism Awareness Quiz Nite

In our last week of the fall-winter semester at the Shenyang Aerospace University, one of my teacher colleagues from Hawaii left earlier than planned. On the side, he tutored young English students brought by their parents to one of many storefront schools that specialize in small class instructions of languages for children of those anxious to get their children get ahead in the rat race toward passing government standard tests. English proficiency is one of the areas tested.

I had three fourth-grade students in one of the classes. The Chinese administrator, curious on how I went about my pedagogy, asked if we could have the lesson in the open classroom where the parents usually waited, instead of the more private room where we closed the door. So we did.

One of the parents who brought her girl had an older boy, at first blank-eyed and non-communicating, almost acting sedated and obviously under very close supervision. I use tunes that students are already familiar with from TV and radio to get them vocalize their oral English, get them familiar with words they already have seen written, have them hear how words are used by a "native" speaker (me), and get them to repeat it so they can hear the words again in their own voice.

The almost two-hour session was divided into two 45-minute sections, and two-thirds into the first section, I noticed the quiet boy getting animated each time we sang a tune, while the mother copiously wrote whatever I said. I suddenly realized that the son and the mother had actively slipped into and joined the class.

I remember this because the boy had all the symptoms of what the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM IV – published 1994 with a 2000 text revision, and DSM-V in 2013 by the American Psychiatric Association) classify as a developmental disorder. My familiarity with this category stems from my having two PDD-NOS (pervasive development disorder not otherwise specified), aka ASD (autism spectrum disorder) children.

The category is perhaps new in the Chinese lexicon (the boy Lin Zi Kai's mom thinks that she might have bumped the child's head on something in his infancy) while the incidence is widespread around the world as we continue to chemically interfere with our metabolism in intakes we inject into food preservatives and additives, and possibly, even medications.

My children are now 17 and 20 this year, living 12 time zones away with their mom so I thought I already graduated from the front row seat of the autism theatre. With the challenge of enlightening many parents bewildered by a seeming disorientation of their children (in a culture where disabled kids until 1980 were commonly called "useless," *can fei*), I am back to shedding light on a subject that is just beginning to be addressed in China in spite of the fact that country's laws are very protective, generous, and supportive of the rights and prerogatives of the disabled.

It was about a decade ago when we got a phone call from Radio

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara ([jrvergara2031@aol.com](mailto:jrvergara2031@aol.com)) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



Australia. Someone had been researching "autism in the Pacific" and a digital scanning of news items from the region discovered that the word "autism" had a fairer share of usage on Saipan than anywhere else in the Pacific except Hawaii. Somehow, the researcher got my name and phone number, and he wanted to know why.

We had self-organized parents of children diagnosed with ASD informally meeting at the IUMC's Resource Center in Oleai, and later at the short-lived STaRPO office created with a PSS MOU in Chalan Kanoa. Parents tried to understand PSS' Special Education program where pedagogy for their children were administered, and a give-and-take relationship emerged.

Now, the Autism Society of the CNMI that meets at NMPASI in Gualo Rai has an organizational setup to accommodate parents' concerns about their PDD children. AS-CNMI is sponsoring a fundraising and fun Quiz Nite tomorrow night, Saturday. Aimed to promote awareness of ASD, the group by no means has contact with all parents whose children might have received the diagnosis. They need assistance to broaden service coverage. Also, given the stigma that still abides for children diagnosed with a "mental disorder," though we may not call them "useless children," they represent occasions when parents "explain them away" with all kinds of rationalization.

NMPASI is strong in considering the so-called "disabled" as merely "differently-abled." What is in a label? A hell of a difference! That is why I would encourage folks to attend the Quiz Nite Saturday at the Saipan World Resort Taga Hall, from 6pm to 10pm. Meet some of the children and the parents. No one has disposable income these days but a \$20 contribution toward the night's activities will be appreciated.

Parents have recently been invited to participate in the ongoing review of DSM IV toward the new DSM V where ASD is defined. Send queries on this matter to [JamesRayphand@yahoo.com](mailto:JamesRayphand@yahoo.com) (NMPASI), or, [Silpavali@gmail.com](mailto:Silpavali@gmail.com) (Marg Olopai-Taitano, Disabilities Council), or, [Larissa.Larson@gmail.com](mailto:Larissa.Larson@gmail.com) (AS-CNMI).

I will be seeing Lin Zi Kai again, not because I have to but because this continuing drama of the inability to grasp the continuing glory and awe of human existence, however it shows up, tugs at the entrails of our soul. As the spirit moves, so do I.



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Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## The art of worldly silence

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at [EdStephensJr.com](http://EdStephensJr.com).  
His column runs every Friday.



When the story hit that Emerita “Emie” R. Romero, a 37-year-old mother of two from the Philippines, was missing, my wife and I held our collective breath and hoped that it was just a quirky event that would be cleared up. The hopes were not realistic. Now it’s a murder case.

The pros are on the job. Let them do their work. The professional investigators will investigate, and the professional reporters will report. I have neither role in this matter. So I’m not going to buzz around with idle speculation.

In fact, you might have noticed that I’m never on the gadfly and gossip train. Some of my pals chastise me for shying away from “hot” stories. And, true, I’ve never taken that road. So I might as well tell you why.

First, though, kindly note that I’m not trying to dictate how other people behave. I’m just sharing my own outlook when it comes to communications after tragedies.

I’ve spent a lot of my career in aviation. One unpleasant truth is that in the industry, accidents happen. For example, a long time ago, one of my friends was killed in a helicopter incident and the buzz, buzz, busybody buzz of the gadflies started immediately.

It was exactly like watching flies materialize, seemingly out of nowhere, to swarm upon a dead animal, or upon a fallen breadfruit.

That particular accident wasn’t the first time I lost a friend like that, but it was the first time I had to deal with it as a manager. Be-

fore that event I had never paid attention to gossips. Heck, I didn’t even know any gossips.

So, all those years ago, I had to come up with some sort of theory on the gig. My theory? Gadflies seemed like lonely people who craved attention, or they were people who wanted to feel important by having something important to say. The worse the tragedy, the more important they felt by piggybacking on the event. And they didn’t always employ criticism, by the way, but sometimes made grand displays of haughty sanctimony. Either way, the common element was always an air of attention-seeking superiority. That might sound like a rag-tag, homespun theory, because that’s indeed what it was, but nothing I’ve seen since contradicts it.

Meanwhile, over the decades, in various situations, I had to field some calls from spouses or children of pilots who met with disaster. These survivors were sometimes tormented by how the pilot’s legacy had been defiled by the tongue-waggers. After all, the public mind, like a sponge, merely absorbs what is around it. So the paradox here is that the knowledgeable people know enough to wait until the facts are in, which, in aviation, might take years to sort out, while the gadflies, of course, exercise no such discipline.

So the gadflies will merrily pollute the well before any normal person knows, or even cares, where the well is. By the time everyone finally meanders over to drink of the discourse, the damage has been done. You can’t undo it.

Aviation isn’t the only realm that is dogged by this factor. The military, maritime, and law enforcement worlds also have to deal with it, where any professional is just one bad moment away from a gadfly swarm around his grave, around his reputation, around his family, around his buddies. Many Saipan residents, and, beyond that, many readers of this column, have worked in these realms, so I

See **THE ART** on Page 14

## NMI ‘Uncertainty, Inc.’

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



There is Japan Inc. that represents the working relationship between government and private industries to build the country’s economic foundation. There are other Inc.s worldwide among powerful conglomerates engaged in global business transactions.

Recently, we happened upon what has evolved into “NMI Uncertainty, Inc.” It represents a place where nothing works, as dazed politicians sing “Make the world go away,” fully content. Take a glimpse at the failed performance of the do-nothings on the Hill. Stunningly puzzling is the obvious lack of urgency to step-up to the plate of proactive leadership.

Interesting that most politicians have bought prime stocks under the most prestigious political club: NMI Uncertainty, Inc. They’d soon be feasting on lunch and dinner at taxpayers’ expense to celebrate their new purchases and membership, too.

In bad times, people usually look toward their so-called leadership for answers. There’s none! Perhaps the seeming lack of urgency and leadership are attributable to their comfortable income way above average salaries among the struggling multitude. For some, we even pay for their utilities, transportation and gasoline, not to mention security services.

Maybe these perks have numbed their senses as to fail to do reality checks on the livelihood of the folks they’ve promised brighter tomorrows. Such promise, sadly, has dimmed permanently. Fecklessness is the new culture they have honed and wear daily.

They relish their loot from the backbreaking tax contributions paid for by taxpayers. Interesting the imposition of austerity against taxpayers while exempting their hefty salaries. Here is where one could easily detect if they have the interest of the multitude at heart or is it simply empty political spins easily pulled out of their plantation of fecklessness and mediocrity.

The troubling issue with fecklessness is whether this is a microcosm of our future. If so, do we take it lying down? If not, what then must we do to recapture the future of these isles? Is there hope when we next meet a new break of dawn? Or is it more a case of “NMI Uncertainty Inc?”

■ ■ ■

### Paradise: Whatever happened?

The island is the playground of tourists from Japan and Asia. They flock to the Taga Stone famous isles of the CNMI especially during cold winter months. It’s a wonderful place to stretch out on our immaculate beaches and swim in our crystal clear warm waters.

After three days, they return home with prestigious tan and pleasant memories of frolicking in warm waters and pleasant weather of tropical island paradise.

Be that as it may, none of them know that islanders are struggling under disastrous economic conditions at home. After work they re-

turn to their substandard houses to rest. It isn’t the bright sun that blurs their vision as much as future job security as tourism sways dangerously at the base. Would they still have jobs in the near term? How much longer would revenue streams suffer huge plummet? Would they be able to weather more utility fee hikes?

The term “paradise” becomes a tool of promotions only relevant to travel agencies that use it to lure more visitors to the island. Islanders know that wrapped in the mutilated term is an entirely different place best described as “hellish hole.”

With reduced work hours, stagnant salaries or joblessness, or simply giving up looking for work, these setbacks hardly measure up against increases in costly basic commodities, gasoline, health-care, and utility fees. Coupled with impending foreclosures of first family homes makes one wonder if the ruination of paradise is in fact the vision by our so-called leadership. You be the judge!

■ ■ ■

### Source of failure

For responsible citizens, there’s the lingering question: Where did we go wrong as to fail to guard and sustain the good economic times that descended in the late ’80s and early ’90s? It seems that the comforts of *mañana* led the CNMI into the complacency corner. The long snooze has led to embracing economic annihilation wrought by destructive federal impositions. The elected elite was caught dazed when real challenges emerged. They haven’t a clue what hit these isles in tsunami like fashion.

The so-called leadership basked in the thrill of power, ignoring the urgency of fundamental policies needing immediate rectification. There’s the discriminatory land policy that removes “equal protection” for some citizens and others legally situated. This infraction alone is the most prohibitive and discouraging. It raises questions about protection for non-citizens. This and other shortsighted policies including slighting foreign businesses in favor of locals in the enforcement of tax obligations are sufficient for our partners to think with their feet. The former is taxed to the hilt while the latter is purposely exempt. The playing field is woefully uneven!

Coupled with the obvious lack of a sound legal code, anti-business policies that kill rather than encourage expansion and new business startups, we now sit repeating Einstein’s definition of “insanity”: Juggling the same thing over and over again hoping for different results.

It’s oxymoronic to use the term “leadership” when most folks here know full well that it doesn’t exist.

■ ■ ■

### Everything is government, oops!

The CNMI’s seeming specialty is government. But a glimpse at what it does with fast depleting resources is contrary to any sense of frugality.

The bloated payroll needs some \$3million to \$4 million per pay period. Taxpayers quiz: What do we get out of this deal where the plantation of mediocrity is blossoming even during winter months?

Lately, there’s a proposal to permit the sale of public land now under lease to hotels and golf resorts. It’s a tale of the obvious desperation to navigate the fast depleting resources of the local government headed to Bankruptcy Cliff.

It seems our lords are still snoozing, acquiescing worsening economic conditions, dazed and paralyzed. The obvious lack of any sense of urgency doesn’t offer much hope to rebuilding a ruined bridge they’ve seen fit to destroy and ignore. Whatever happened to “Everything Is Government?” *A`Saina! Si JR.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Letter of appreciation

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt appreciation to Ms. Vanessa Fitial from CUC’s Financial Accounts Management for taking the time on Thursday, Feb. 2, to resolve the dilemma concerning the disconnection of water for Retsa Horizon Apartments located on Pila Drive, Sadog Tasi.

Disconnected for two days without any explanation or notice from CUC, we were compelled to purchase 3,000 gallons of water to temporarily accommodate the needs of our tenants. Needless to say, most government employees would have referred the case to another person than to take the initiative to do the right thing and settle the dispute amicably. After using up five hours of her time that day, Ms. Fitial was very instrumental in turning the water back on in the evening.

Thank you again, on behalf of the tenants residing at Retsa Horizon Apartments, for your undivided attention and courtesy you have unselfishly extended to me that day! We certainly need more people like you to better serve the public. Keep up the good work, and God bless you for making my day!

**George A. Sablan**

General Manager

Retsa Development, Inc.

## Biba election 2012!

Another election is coming up. Have the CNMI voters learned from their mistakes of voting for Covenant candidates? Will the same old career politicians like Paul Manglona, Pete Reyes, Jude Hofschneider, Ralph Torres, Stanley Torres, Froilan Tenorio, Ray Basa, Mike Ada, Fred DL Guerrero, Raymond Palacios, Melvin Faisao, Sly Iguel, George Camacho, Eli Cabrera, and Felicidad Ogumoro win again?

Will there be quality candidates with education, experience, and the conscience of doing what is right for the people, instead of following Fitial’s path of greed and corruption? Tony Pellegrino, Robert Torres (attorney), Alex Sablan (Pitu), Dr. Daniel Lamar, Tina Sablan, Ed Propst, Edward Salas, Jesse Torres, Betty Cabrera, Angelo Villagomez, Laurie Peterka, Ambrose Bennett, Fred Prosser, and others: Please run for office so we can rebuild the CNMI and get rid of Fitial’s followers.

**Antonio Aldan**






Kagman Saipan



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79

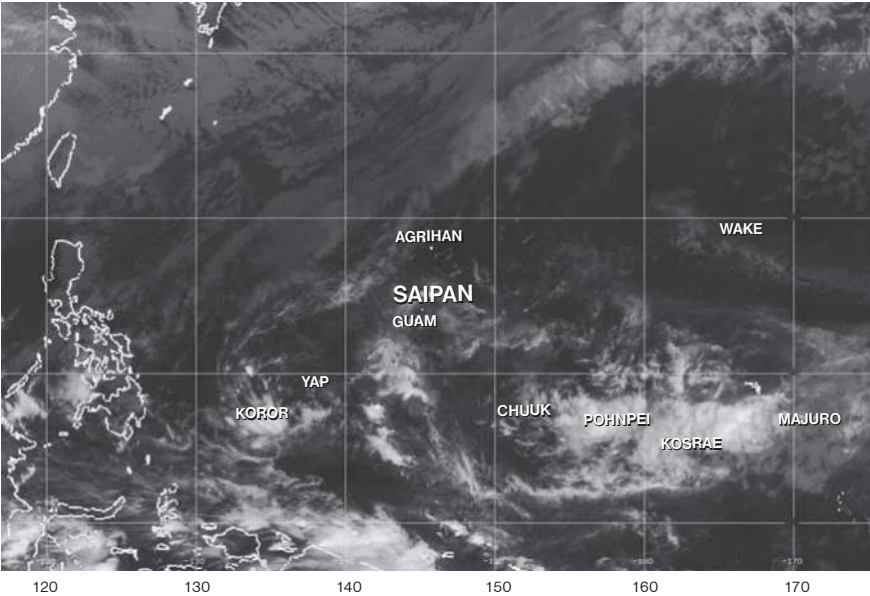
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 71 ▼ 65
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 40 ▼ 18
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 60
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 69
London	Sunny	▲ 37 ▼ 27
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 50
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 74
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 66 ▼ 58
Miami	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 70
New York	Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 34
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 43 ▼ 34
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 33 ▼ 18
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 43 ▼ 26
Rome	Ice	▲ 45 ▼ 32
Salem	Rain	▲ 55 ▼ 36
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 50
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 30 ▼ 16
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 32
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 53 ▼ 39

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:13 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	
9:37 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	
3:46 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
9:17 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2012  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from west of Minami Tori Shima at 25N151E to 15N135E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough extends southeastward from a circulation centered just east of Koror at 7N136E to end at EQ143E. Scattered showers are found over Koror between 5N and 9N from 132E to 136E and east of Yap between 4N and 11N from 141E to 145E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 3N and 9N from 153E to 173E. This area includes Pohnpei, Kosrae, Kwajalein, and Majuro.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Saturday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Sunday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Monday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Tuesday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:32 PM	8:03 AM
Saturday	9:30 PM	8:48 AM
Sunday	10:28 PM	9:34 AM
Monday	11:28 PM	10:22 AM
Tuesday		11:13 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)</b> C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



## Letters to the Editor

# 99 percent? More like the 1 percent of the 1 percent

This is in response to Diego C. Blancos letter lashing out at what he calls the 1 percent of Saipan. I read practically every single article and letter to the editor of the *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety* almost everyday. I have yet to find one letter or article criticizing island culture or the blatant racism you speak of in your letter. The 1 percent you speak of just happens to be the 99 percent. You, Ben, Stanley, and your gang are the 1 percent.

We are the folks who aren't afraid to speak their mind or afraid to complain about a failed and corrupt governmental system in the islands that we all call home. There are many folks complaining about the destruction of the CNMI as they know it, but they aren't the letter writing type of people. But you will hear all of these complaints around the picnic table you so fondly described in your letter.

You seem to love the status quo. You would have things stay exactly the way they are and that explains to those of us reading your letter quite a bit about you, Mr. Blanco. You are one of the 1 percent of Saipan who benefit from the system of corruption and nepotism. You said, "Locals go to church and don't like spending their time on golf courses." That's strange, because I'm a pretty fair golfer and the worst thrashing I ever received in a lifetime of playing of golf was by a person of Northern Marianas descent. I don't see only folks of NMD in church on Saipan. Same for the hotel buffets. That's usually where I see most of my friends of NMD. But in reality, I see a pretty good mix of all races golfing and at the buffets. Haven't seen you at church though.

You complain about the folks there on work contracts. Are there enough NMD to fill *all* the teaching and administrative positions? Do you know why there aren't enough NMD to fill most of the other positions? Because the economy, which has been ruined by the last three governors, your Uncle Ben included, has caused a brain drain in the CNMI. All the best and brightest have run away to Guam or the U.S. mainland, where they don't have to deal with the system in the CNMI.

You state folks might get the wrong idea about public opinion of the CNMI. How would you know public opinion when you spend a majority of your time on a barstool next to Stanley Torres or hanging out with Uncle Ben? Everyone in the CNMI knows that they, like you, are out of touch with the realities of life and public opinion on Saipan. Ironically, we all know *your* favorite hangouts are Cofee Care and Godfather's with Stanley and the gang.

What I gather from reading opinions about the CNMI is that there is a never ending pouring out of disgust and frustration by writers regarding the failed *political* system and the rampant *corruption* of the various politicians and their administrations over the last 20 or so years. If you consider that part of island culture then I guess you'd be right about the complaints, but you're not and you know it.

The complaints are as always: about the corruption and stupidity of the CNMI's elected officials and their inability to fix the problems that plague the CNMI. Not complaining about the island culture or the locals. If you really read the letters to the editor and not listen to the sound bites being read to you, you will find that most of the writers believe many positive things about the CNMI and that we believe there are a great many folks in office trying to do an honest and good job, yet they are voted down and marginalized by the lazy, inept, and corrupt ones in power. That is what the writers are lamenting—the things that make the CNMI special are being ruined by folks like Ben, Stanley, and yourself.

To keep the focus off yourselves, you, Stanley and Froilan blame letter writers like me for the changes happening to the CNMI. Change is inevitable. It is time for the CNMI government to make changes that will have a benefit for *all* who live in the CNMI, not a select 1 percent and to behave in a Christian manner, stop the downward spiral of the economy and guide the changes to the CNMI to maintain those special qualities the CNMI is known for.

You call out about the plight of the NMD, yet your last name, Blanco, has its origins in the Philippines. That means you aren't even of NMD. Also, if I remember correctly, you've spent the better part of your life living in Palau and your spouse is also of non-NMD. Sort of like the pot calling the kettle black. (If you don't know what that means and from what I know of you personally, you don't, so have your letter writer explain it to you. Your writer, by the way, sounds *a lot* like your buddy, Stanley Torres' writer.)

You don't like hearing the constant complaints about the overpaid, under-qualified government workers. Granted, there are many who do actually have the qualifications indicated in the job description and do work hard and honestly to get the job done. However, there are many, many folks like you who don't have the education requirements for the job they are being paid for; what they do have

is the family connection. What is wrong to complain about that? You claim that as the local culture. *That is not* island culture. What about the local who *does* have the education requirement, yet can't get a government job because someone like you is holding that position. I guess you think that is unfair, that we write and complain about that type of situation to the newspapers also.

You also failed to mention the complaints writers have about convicted felons holding government jobs. If you think that it is OK to have a job you aren't qualified for or its OK that you bypassed government hiring standards and got your job because of who you know or are related to, then that makes you a part of the problem facing the CNMI today. It's not that we, the letter writers are holding you to *our* high standards—we are holding you to the normal standard any honest society would have for its citizens and government officials alike. Not hard to understand.

What have you done for the CNMI Mr. Blanco lately? To steal a line from a quote in the *Marianas Variety* Comments Page: The last time you rode in the back of a pickup was when you lived in Palau. So don't try to sell yourself as one of the NMD people because you aren't and never will be. In closing, read the articles below regarding landownership and casinos or have yours and Stanley's writer read them to you. Article 12 by Jose S. Delacruz, Sept 30, 2008, <http://ccart12.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/handout2.pdf>. A voice against Casinos by Carlos Trujillo, State representative, Florida: [http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/02/02/2621836\\_p2/why-i-will-vote-against-casinos.html](http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/02/02/2621836_p2/why-i-will-vote-against-casinos.html)

Paul H. Beebe  
Spokane, Washington

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Alexandro "The Colonel" Sablan  
Dandan, Saipan

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## Letters to the Editor

### On Greek tragedy and natural rights

Mr. Jim Pitts, I also don't know you. But you drowned yourself in a sea of heedless reactionary accusations without any basis in fact. My piece was written in an impersonal manner, purposely deleting specific names. A quick glimpse into my assessment will have you leaving the last sentence reciting Gomer Pyle's eternal expression, "Surprise, surprise, surprise!" in embarrassment.

You also came close to using the race card to express a universal human experience we all go through regardless of pigmentation. Sir, I think I am a good Christian and a staunch believer in the rights of all citizens and legally situ-

ated non-citizens. I cringe when I see locals fronting ethnocentric views on Article 12 that definitely works against everybody—lack of equal protection—and other disoriented policies here. But I agree with you that the responsibility of healthcare in the NMI remains that of this administration.

Too, I've spent about eight years going in and out of hospitals between here, Honolulu, UCLA Medical Center, and the Children's Hospital in San Diego when my son was a critical heart patient. I've learned enough and need not peep into suspect materials designed for profit to figure out the importance of knowing a hospital's backup system on critical

medical cases involving invasive procedure followed by stint at the ICU, travails of folks with health issues without health insurance, etc. If I may digress.

Mr. Francisco R. Agulto wanted my views on "natural rights" dismissed, asserting that I left voids on some issues that require scholarly discussions. I humbly defer to his innuendo that I am a non-scholar, though I question if he's unilaterally captured the wisdom corner all to himself as to leave others in the land of intellectual privation. I know the principle on natural rights was hardly discussed during the Covenant negotiations, though it was done for dele-

gates to the first NMI constitutional convention. Obviously they've missed it, given that it's heavy material and didn't have the gall to digest it.

I am a retired journalist with over 40 years under my belt. The discipline leaves an indelible professional skill of getting to the truth followed by a simple explanation of what's at issue. I have no plans to engage in disoriented or meandering scholarly discussion of the various rights that fly above the common people's heads for that could be interpreted as arrogance. I believe I've succeeded in this respect by using the KISS concept. Therefore, I'll leave scholarly discussions to self-professed scholars like you, sir.

You quoted one of history's most famous philosophers, John Locke, a wasteful scribble. You should have devoted

that segment to presenting his views on "natural rights" emanating from the First Principles. John Locke observes in The Second Treatise on Civil Government, "The great chief end, therefore, of men uniting into commonwealths, and putting themselves under government, is the preservation of their property."

Locke did not create out of thin air the concept of natural law or property rights or the ordered relationship that was necessary between the sovereign and his subjects. *He was well versed in the lessons of history before he ever put the first pen stroke on foolscap.* The First Principles also defines the distinct difference between "natural," "civil," and "human" rights. Natural rights are God-given and are unalienable, meaning they can't be infringed or violated.

Look forward to reading your scholarly dissertation on natural rights but please ensure employing political and intellectual integrity in your explanation. I can't gloss over the fundamentally discriminatory aspect of Article 12 that not only turns "equal protection" on its head, but replaces over 400 years of land tenure system of individually owned private land here into collective ownership, a socialistic paradigm at best, a denial of full rights to landownership at worse. Presto!

**John S. DelRosario Jr.**  
As Gonno, Saipan

## THE ART

From Page 11

think they'll nod their heads in agreement on this point.

By contrast, in the modern age, more and more people have clerical careers, so I think the gadfly effect will grow. From what I've seen, gadflies usually have safe, petty little jobs on the sidelines of life. So they are quite unconcerned about they, themselves, being victimized by post-accident gossip someday. They will die like they lived: In boring, humdrum anonymity. Hence the smugness and, sometimes, false swagger.

Anyway, in any realm, and for whatever reason, my outlook has remained the same: I don't seek attention from anyone's grief or tragedy. I have seen too much of it, and I've seen how the communications dynamic plays out.

I am gratified to see that some good folks have put up cash rewards to help solve the Romero case. And my household, being very much run by a Filipina, takes this case to heart in the extreme. That's all I will say for now.

But buzz, buzz, busy-bee buzz? Never.

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## Letters to the Editor

## Open discussion

My previous letter about the 99 percent elicited many online comments. That's good. I wanted to start an open discussion about

the silent majority on Saipan, and the discussion certainly flourished. I enjoyed reading all the comments, even the ones that had

nothing to do with my letter and everything to do with personal vendettas against me.

But the online comments prove my point. A certain 1 percent is very vocal on Article 12 and other issues, but their sheer numerical count is very low. Are we talking about perhaps 20

people (self-selected by plenty of time on their hands, not popularly elected as our leaders are) trying to represent these islands? And about 20 people—many of them just passers-by here—who want to permanently change landownership in the CNMI?

I signed my letter with my real

government's tit and scam some money. That's the real deal and we all know it. It's not about developing a new island revenue stream from professional baseball in Asia. The yahoos up on Capital Hill wouldn't have a clue how to do any form of pro-sports business, and we all know the fields will end up looking like a Kobler-ville jungle dump, all overgrown with beer cans on the lawn in three years. And empty of pro baseball teams. That's the real plan the mayor and his cronies are envisioning. Rome is burning, and your talking baseball fields?

**Chris West**  
Santa Monica, Calif.

name, and even where I live. I stand behind my comments. My life, my reputation, and my family's reputation are here on Saipan. Meanwhile, online commenter hide behind aliases in their drive-by attacks. Do they even live in the CNMI? Their attitudes and language aren't the ones I know from these beautiful islands.

All kinds of outsiders are

welcome to live here, and even to spend all day posting angry comments and innuendos. All we ask of them is that they clean up after themselves, give respect where it's due, and leave land ownership here in the CNMI for us NMDs.

**Diego C. Blanco**  
As Lito, Saipan

## You gotta be kiddin'

Four baseball fields are being proposed for \$21.5 million and Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores believes this may be realized through federal assistance. Twenty-one million bucks of "other people's money," mainly U.S. federal grants, for a friggin' baseball field. You gotta be kiddin' me, dude. Your morals and ethics have been totally twisted, Mr. Mayor, if you're looking for free handouts to make baseball fields for Koreans and Japanese to hit a ball on while your kids are high on ice and your education system is struggling to meet the

needs of a new high tech world.

What kind of people have you become? Your roads are rotting, your hospital is being driven into the ground and major Medicaid cuts will force even more problems on the sick, your coral reefs are rotting and bleaching with rapidly declining fish stocks, and your community has a massive drug problem, even your local political leaders are selling ice! What a moral disgrace for a small community.

You live on a tiny, isolated rock 5 miles by 10 miles in size and you have almost insur-

mountable economic problems to solve ASAP before Saipan becomes a ghost town financially and socially and your mayor is whimpering for "somebody, help us poor islanders get some free candy from Big Brother. Help me get a free handout." Where is your pride, CNMI? Your beat your chests about "Chamorro pride"...well, here it is...a whining, no self-respecting plea for free money to make baseball fields that Koreans can play in.

Oops, I forgot. The real reason the CNMI leadership wants that baseball field is that it means another backend cousin-to-cousin "locals-only land deal" where they can suck the U.S. federal

## A simple solution

I proudly display a CNMI flag on the wall of the living room at our house so that no one would miss it, and in the years it was in plain view to our visitors. A recent visitor to our house—a friend of mine from the mainland—saw the CNMI flag on the wall and stared at it. I asked why he had an eye glued to the CNMI flag. After a brief moment of explaining his lifetime passion for the arts as a retired performing arts professor in Massachusetts, he convincingly demonstrated to me that






the object referred to as the "Latte stone" looks more like a protruding male organ. I asked how could he say such a thing; he said that was his first impression. But then again, I asked how that could be resolved. He said it could be changed and reformatting to remove the imperfection. He recommended that the Latte stone form could be set in a three-dimensional view—that would be the simplest solution.

**Francisco R. Agulto**  
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

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-  **Fatigue:** Being tired is a very early sign of pregnancy.
-  **Morning (and Noon and Night!) Sickness:** That queasy feeling isn't limited to mornings. Most pregnant women who experience morning sickness feel slightly nauseated and may have vomiting at other times during the day as well.
-  **Sore (and Enlarged) Breasts:** If you're pregnant, your breasts may become tender to the touch, similar to the way they feel before your period, only more so.

If you have any of the above symptoms or suspect you are pregnant, come to the clinic for a pregnancy test as soon as possible! Don't wait!

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**\$11,995<sup>00</sup>**



2007 Honda Fit Base  
STOCK # 7S034395

**\$11,995<sup>00</sup>**



2008 Nissan Quest S  
STOCK # 8N111101

**\$18,995<sup>00</sup>**



2007 Honda Civic DX  
STOCK # 7L043414

**\$11,995<sup>00</sup>\***



2008 Mazda RX8  
STOCK # 80214167

**\$16,995<sup>00</sup>\***



2007 Ford Fusion SEL  
STOCK # 7R100604

**\$14,995<sup>00</sup>\***



2009 Nissan Xterra S  
STOCK # 9C509155

**\$19,995<sup>00</sup>\***



2009 Nissan Altima S  
STOCK # 9C188438

**\$18,995<sup>00</sup>\***



2008 Kia Sedona LX  
STOCK # 86261071

**\$16,995<sup>00</sup>\***



2009 Nissan Pathfinder SE 4WD  
STOCK # 9C617986

**\$27,995<sup>00</sup>\***



2009 Honda Civic SI  
STOCK # 9H704539

**\$21,995<sup>00</sup>\***



2008 Ford Ranger Sport 4x4  
STOCK # 8PA43917

**\$21,995<sup>00</sup>\***



Mona Mengloi  
Sales Consultant  
Visit or call 234-5562



2011 Nissan Altima S Coupe  
STOCK # BC100556

**\$27,995<sup>00</sup>\***



2010 Honda Odyssey EX  
STOCK # AB086532

**\$28,995<sup>00</sup>\***

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM  
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Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply •  
On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies Last.  
\* Vehicles Certified with 61 point inspection.



**Joeten Motors**  
POWERED BY YOU



# An unforgettable Valentine's Day at Serenity Salon & Spa

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Give yourself and your loved one the gift of luxury this Valentine's Day by treating them to a deluxe spa ex-

perience at Serenity Salon & Spa along Beach Road in Garapan.

Serenity Salon & Spa offers a complete line of spa services and salon treatments for a truly pleasurable dose of pampering.

This beauty facility on the second floor of Dollar Days Building has a selection of perfect and

memorable gift ideas for that special someone through their Valentine's Day promotions.

It also has its popular promotion: a 50-percent discount on every second service purchased from Feb. 10 to 14.

Enjoy sheer spa indulgence with your beloved by availing

of the "Couple Package" at only \$160 (regular price), which includes an invigorating body scrub with honey body polish, soothing Serenity signature massage, deep cleansing facial, and Diamond Peel for two.

Or you can try the "Sweetheart Package" for \$150, which



CLARISSA V. DAVID

The highly skilled and professional staff of Serenity Salon & Spa ensure that every visit gives customers royal treatment. From left, Michelle Santos, Mercy Garcia, Analyn Nisola, Angie Posada, Pinky Antonino, and Venus Grenio.

includes Serenity's signature massage, Diamond Peel, Deep Cleansing Facial, and hair spa treatment, also good for two.

Both lovers' packages feature up to \$60 in savings.

Looking for other ways to express your feelings to a loved one or going solo this Hearts Day? Fret not, as Serenity Salon & Spa also has individual packages starting at \$50 that would suit anyone's needs: "Forever Yours," "Just For You," "Be My Valentine," "You are the One," and "Specially for You."

Customers can also opt for Serenity Salon & Spa's popular and quality services separately. It is the only salon on island that offers hair spa with antibiotics, a new treatment for those with damaged hair as it replenishes lost minerals, making your hair super soft and manageable. Its

price depends on the client's hair length and starts at \$35.

For more savings and discounts, avail of Serenity Salon & Spa's special promos. You can choose to get five sessions of deep cleansing facial, five sessions of signature massage or four sessions of body scrub with honey for \$100. For just \$200, you can get five sessions of deep cleansing facial plus five sessions of Diamond Peel.

Receive quality salon and spa services and make your Valentine's Day unforgettable at Serenity Salon & Spa. Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10am to 7:30pm. In celebration of Valentine's, they will be open on Monday, Feb. 13. Major credit cards accepted and gift certificates are available. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 233-6688.

## PHONE STORE Valentine's Special

<b>BLACKBERRY 8530</b> CDMA WIFI <b>\$129.00</b>	<b>BLACKBERRY CURVE 3G-9330</b> CDMA WIFI <b>\$139.00</b>	<b>BLACKBERRY 8230</b> CDMA <b>\$75.00</b>	<b>LG COSMOS 250</b> CDMA <b>\$120.00</b>	<b>SAMSUNG CONVOY U640</b> CDMA <b>\$120.00</b>	<b>MOTOROLA BARRAGE 860 WATERPROOF</b> CDMA <b>\$110.00</b>	<b>SAMSUNG U360</b> CDMA <b>\$40.00</b>	<b>LG LOTUS 600</b> CDMA WIFI <b>\$99.00</b>
<b>SONY XPERIA PLAY R800</b> CDMA WIFI <b>\$275.00</b>	<b>LG 920</b> GSM <b>\$120.00</b>	<b>SAMSUNG 107</b> GSM <b>\$39.00</b>	<b>SAMSUNG A167</b> GSM <b>\$49.00</b>	<b>SAMSUNG A5620</b> GSM WIFI <b>\$150.00</b>	<b>SAMSUNG A187</b> GSM <b>\$129.00</b>	<b>BLACKBERRY 9650</b> GSM/CDMA WIFI <b>\$259.00</b>	

MS VILLAGOMEZ BLDG.  
**PHONE STORE** RESTAURANT  
CHALAN, KANOA, BEACH ROAD  
← To San Antonio To Garapan →  
POST OFFICE

**BUSINESS HOURS:** Monday to Saturday 10:00am to 8:00pm • Sunday: 11 am to 5 pm

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**ALL ACCESORIES 20% OFF • LAPTOPS, CAMERAS AND ALL OTHER PHONES 10% OFF**

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*Serenity*  
Salon & Spa

# 50% Discount

FOR EVERY 2ND SERVICE,  
PROMO STARTS ON FEBRUARY 10-14, 2012

### Couple Package \$160.00

Couple Body Scrub w/ Honey body Polish  
Couple Serenity Signature Massage  
Couple Deep Cleansing Facial  
Couple Diamond Peel

### Sweetheart Package \$150.00

Sweetheart Serenity Signature Massage  
Sweetheart Deep Cleansing Facial  
Sweetheart Hair Spa Treatment  
Sweetheart Diamond Peel

### You are the One \$100.00

Body Scrub w/ Honey Polish  
Serenity Signature Massage  
Deep Cleansing Facial  
Hair Spa Treatment  
Diamond Peel

### Be My Valentine \$75.00

Serenity Signature Massage  
Hair Spa Treatment  
Anti Aging Facial  
Diamond Peel

### Just For You \$55.00

Serenity Signature Massage  
Deep Cleansing Facial  
Diamond Peel

### Forever Yours \$50.00

Foot Spa w/ Foot Massage  
Manicure / Pedicure  
Hair Spa Treatment  
Eyebrow Threading

### Specially for You - \$100.00

Hair Color      Hair Cut w/ Blow Dry      Manicure / Pedicure  
Hair Spa Treatment      Iron or Hair Set      Foot Spa w/ Foot Massage

**Special Promo - \$100.00**  
a. 5 Deep Cleansing Facial  
b. 5 Signature Massage  
c. 4 Body Scrub w/ Honey

### WEEKLY SPECIAL

TUESDAY:	BODY MASSAGE	\$ 20.00
	MEN'S HAIR CUT	\$ 5.00
	LADIES' HAIR CUT	\$ 8.00
WEDNESDAY:	FACIAL	\$ 20.00
THURSDAY:	HAIR SPA	\$ 15.00

**GIFT CERTIFICATE AVAILABLE**

**SPECIAL Promo**  
**\$200.00**  
5 Deep Cleansing Facial and  
5 Diamond Peel

### • PRICELIST •

Back Waxing (Upper or Lower)	\$25.00
Bikini Waxing	\$25.00
Brazilian Waxing	\$25.00
Half Legs Waxing	\$25.00
Teen Facial	\$20.00
Aroma Facial	\$25.00
Deep Cleansing Facial	\$25.00
Anti-Aging Facial	\$35.00
Under Arm Waxing	\$15.00
Eyebrow Waxing	\$10.00
Eyebrow Threading	\$ 5.00
Mustache Threading	\$5.00
Eyelash Perming	\$20.00
Foot spa w/ Foot Massage	\$15.00
Manicure/Pedicure	\$18.00
Hair Cut for Men	\$ 7.00
Hair Cut for Ladies	\$10.00
Hair Cut w/ Shampoo & Blow Dry	\$12.00
Hair Perming	\$30.00
Hair & Make-up	\$35.00
Hair Spa w/ Antibiotics	\$35.00
Hair Relax	(price is determined by the length of hair)
Hair Rebonding	(price is determined by the length of hair)
Body Scrub	\$25.00
Body Scrub w/ Honey body Polish	\$35.00
Body Scrub w/ Sea Weed Wrap	\$50.00
Body Scrub w/ Whitening & Honey Body Polish	\$60.00
Eyelash Extension	\$15.00
(human hair / high quality materials used by professional)	



# This Valentine's Day, say it with flowers from Dollar Days

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Valentine's Day won't be the special day it is without flowers. Give that someone special the gift of flowers from Dollar Days Flowers & Gifts.

Located at the ground floor of Dollar Days Building along Beach Road in Garapan, Dollar Days Flowers & Gifts offers an array of flowers, floral arrangements, and other gift ideas that are perfect for the most romantic occasion of the year.

Dollar Days Flowers & Gifts carries only the freshest and the

most fragrant Ecuadorian roses in assorted colors, all guaranteed to last longer for your loved ones to enjoy.

You can buy these beautiful Ecuadorian roses as is or, if you prefer, they can be arranged according to your taste and accented with other heartwarming Valentine gift items such as stuffed toys, chocolates, and balloons.

Dollar Days Flowers & Gifts has a selection of Valentine's Day Special arrangements ranging from just six pieces to a dozen, all with

their very own special theme: "Especially For You," "Sweet Love Bouquet," "All My Love Arrangement," and "Forever Yours Arrangement."

These exquisite fresh floral arrangements are priced at \$30 and up—a reasonable cost to tell some- one how special they are.

Dollar Days Flowers & Gifts also has simple yet elegant arrangements of roses with baby's breath, which are also bestsellers. A wrapped single rose starts at \$8 or a single rose in a vase



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Dollar Days Flowers & Gifts has gift baskets containing an assortment of goodies for a minimum of \$45. Looking for a huggable gift? Check out the store's selection of special teddy bears in different sizes.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Dollar Days Flowers & Gifts offers an array of flowers, floral arrangements, and other gift ideas that are perfect for the most romantic occasion of the year.

starts at \$12.

Not a fan of roses? Dollar Days Flowers & Gifts has other romantic flowers to choose from: lilies, carnation, mums, and gerbera flowers. All other flowers also come in various colors.

If your beloved prefers permanency over freshness, Dollar Days Flowers & Gifts also has a variety of artificial flowers arranged in vases that go from \$20 and up. Glass flowers are also available.

For those who want to receive sweets and treats on Valentine's Day, Dollar Days Flowers &

Gifts has gift baskets containing an assortment of goodies for a minimum of \$45.

Looking for a huggable gift? Check out the store's selection of special teddy bears in different sizes starting at \$17.99.

All floral arrangements, gift baskets, and other Valentine's Day gift items can be personalized with your handwritten individual note or a message of your choosing. Dollar Days Flowers & Gifts also provides delivery services for \$5 to \$10, depending on the location.

Customers are encouraged to place their orders in advance,

especially with floral arrangements so you can get to choose the best flowers for the best person in your life.

Find what you need this Valentine's Day and any other occasion at Dollar Days Flowers & Gifts along Beach Road in Garapan. They will open early on days leading up to Valentine's Day to accommodate last-minute buyers: on Feb. 11 and 12, from 9am to 8pm and Feb. 13 and 14 from 8:30am to 9pm. Regular hours of operation are 10am to 7:30pm. Major credit cards accepted. For orders or inquiries, call 233-2828 or 6688.

## Dollar Days Flowers & Gifts

PO Box 501328, Dollar Days Bldg. Garapan,  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. No. 670-233-2828 / 233-6688

### Valentine's Day Special

(Fresh Flowers from Ecuador)

#### "FOREVER YOURS ARRANGEMENT"

One dozen of fresh red roses in vase w/ stuff toy, heart chocolate, Mylar balloon, card, stick up & ribbon

#### "ALL MY LOVE ARRANGEMENT"

One dozen of fresh red roses in a vase, heart chocolate, Mylar balloon, card, stick up & ribbon

#### "SWEET LOVE BOUQUET"

One dozen of fresh red roses in a vase w/ stuff toy, My-lar balloon, card, stick up & ribbon

#### "SPECIALLY FOR YOU"

Half dozen fresh red roses in vase w/ stuff toy, heart chocolate, Mylar balloon, stick up, card & ribbon

Visit us at Dollar Days Garapan to see all our displays for this special occasion. We also offer fresh flower at a wholesale price w/ a minimum order of 25pcs., please contact Tintin or Anette at 233-2288 for more details.

#### BEST SELLER

- One dozen of fresh red roses arrangement in a vase w/ baby's breath, mylar balloon, card, stick up & ribbon
- Half dozen of fresh red roses arrangement in a vase w/ baby's breath, mylar balloon, card, stick up & ribbon
- Three fresh red roses arrangement in a vase w/ baby's breath, mylar balloon, card, stick up & ribbon
- Single red rose in vase w/ baby's breath, card & ribbon

#### WRAPPED ROSES

- One dozen of fresh red roses specially wrapped with baby's breath, mylar balloon, card & ribbon
- Half dozen of fresh red roses specially wrapped with baby's breath, mylar balloon, card & ribbon
- Three fresh red roses specially wrapped with baby's breath, mylar balloon, card & ribbon
- Single fresh red rose specially wrapped with baby's breath, card & ribbon

*Special Valentine Gift Basket and  
Designer Velvet Red Roses Arrangement*

**\$15.00 AND UP**

**We accept DELIVERY**

*Happy Valentine's Day!!!*



# Business

## Greek PM, debt inspectors end talks with no deal

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A crucial meeting between Greece's Prime Minister and debt inspectors on averting default and a possible exit from the euro ended early Thursday with no definite results.

As he left the meeting, Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos said the main point of contention—cuts in pensions—has not been resolved. He made a dramatic plea to the leaders of the political parties backing Greece's coalition government to reach an agreement before a meeting later Thursday of finance ministers from nations

that use the euro.

Venizelos said Greece's "survival over the coming years" depends on the new program of financial aid and the completion of a debt swap agreement with private creditors that would slash Greece's debt load.

"It will determine whether the country remains in the eurozone or whether its place in Europe will be endangered," he said.

"There is no room for any other expediency: we must look Greeks in the eye, look at the national interest and the interest of our children."

Representatives of the so-

called 'troika' of Greece's creditors—the European Union, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund—arrived after midnight Wednesday to negotiate with Prime Minister Lucas Papademos, Venizelos and Labor Minister Giorgos Koutroumanis over the main point of contention: the troika's demand for substantial cuts in supplementary pensions.

The issue that has threatened to derail the talks concerns cuts of about euro300 million that must be made so Greece can reach its fiscal targets for 2012. At stake is a euro130 bil-

lion bailout that will stave off Greece's bankruptcy.

Venizelos will be leaving for Brussels at 7 a.m. local (0500 GMT). The eurozone finance ministers are scheduled to meet at 1700 GMT.

No time has been yet set for a meeting of Papademos with the three political leaders—socialist George Papandreou, conservative Antonis Samaras and right-wing populist George Karatzaf-eris. It is the latter two who have raised the most objections over the pension cuts.

On Wednesday, Papademos and the three political leaders

had met for seven and a half hours and had accepted all the other demands of the troika, in-

cluding a 22 percent cut in the minimum wage and firings of civil servants.

## Murdoch firm settles 9 more hacking lawsuits

LONDON (AP)—Rupert Murdoch's News International has settled nearly all the cases against the company in the first wave of lawsuits for phone hacking by its journalists, with a new round of apologies and payouts announced Wednesday in a London court.

But a potentially damaging claim lodged by British singer Charlotte Church is still headed to trial later this month and a wave of new lawsuits—as many as 56 in all—is looming, lawyers told London's High Court.

News International, a division of News Corp., has tried hard to keep phone hacking cases from going to trial, launching its own compensation program overseen by a respected former judge and paying out millions of pounds (dollars) in all in out-of-court settlements for about 60 cases.

On Wednesday, lawyers announced that nine more lawsuits filed on behalf of about a dozen different people had been settled, including cases brought by comedian Steve Coogan, former soccer star Paul Gascoigne and maverick lawmaker George Galloway.

"This has never been about

money," said Coogan, who received a settlement of 40,000 pounds (\$63,500). "Like other people who have sued, I was determined to do my part to show the depths to which the press can sink in pursuit of private information."

Gascoigne received 68,000 pounds (\$108,000), while Simon Hughes, deputy leader of Britain's Liberal Democrat party, received 45,000 pounds (\$71,500). Galloway, known for his uncompromising opposition to the Iraq war, received 25,000 pounds (\$39,700) and an admission from News International lawyer Michael Silverleaf that the company had intercepted five of the lawmaker's voice-mails around the time of the 2003 invasion.

Sally King, a friend of former British Home Secretary David Blunkett, received 60,000 pounds (\$95,300), while her husband, Andrew, received 50,000 pounds (\$79,400). Silverleaf acknowledged that a News of the World journalist even followed the pair to the U.S. as they tried to find refuge there from the press.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### China's inflation rebounds in January to 4.5 pct

BEIJING (AP)—China's inflation rebounded in January as food prices soared, renewing pressure on Beijing to control living costs as it tries to boost slowing growth amid warnings of a looming global downturn. Consumer prices in the world's second-largest economy rose by an unexpectedly strong 4.5 percent over a year earlier, up from December's 4.1 percent, data showed Thursday. Food prices jumped 10.5 percent, accelerating from the previous month's 9.1 percent rate. "It makes us more concerned that the risk of inflation is not going away," said Nomura economist Zhiwei Zhang. Among Chinese planners "it will reinforce concerns about inflation that already were there."

#### Oil below \$99 as US crude demand lags economy

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered below \$99 a barrel Thursday in Asia as U.S. crude demand lags the overall improvement in the world's biggest economy. Benchmark crude for March delivery was up 11 cents at \$98.82 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 30 cents to settle at \$98.71 on Wednesday. Brent crude was steady at \$117.20 a barrel on the ICE Futures Exchange in London. Crude has hovered near \$100 for the last few months as economic indicators, such as better than expected jobs data, suggests the U.S. economy is strengthening.

#### Source: NY, California to sign mortgage settlement

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—New York and California have agreed to sign the proposed settlement between U.S. states and the nation's biggest mortgage lenders over foreclosure abuses, according to a source close to the negotiations. Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Citibank and Ally Financial agreed to the settlement—for an estimated \$37 billion as of Wednesday for lowering homeowners' mortgage principal, refinancing, a reserve account, and checks to homeowners. However, they were seeking releases from further legal liability, which have been one subject of negotiations for the past several days with state attorneys general who wanted to pursue investigations.



## DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES



### ... Where FAMILY Matters...

### February is Parent Leadership Month



**PROCLAMATION SIGNING**

### HAPPENING!

- Book Mobile this Saturday, **February 11, 2012** at the DYS Tanapag Youth Center 12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
- Information booth at **Street Market on Thursdays.**
- DYS Community Action Team (CAT) Meetings on Tuesdays at the Tanapag Youth Center.
- Parents Anonymous Group Meetings on Thursdays.

### UPCOMING... For Parent Leadership Month

- **Parent Development Workshop - February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Fiesta Resort & Spa**  
Topics: *Communication • Empowerment • Bullying • Diabetes Prevention • Parenting*
- **Rollers Basketball Club – 2nd Annual Cupid Fun Run on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012**
- **Common Sense Parenting/Active Parenting Now/Active Parenting of Teens/Early Childhood S.T.E.P** (To enroll, contact Mercy Usenuku at 664-2552/2555 on Saipan, Ben Atalig at 532-9393 on Rota, and Augusta Famaw at 433-2950 on Tinian)



✓ **To earn your Community Volunteer hours (High School students)**  
Call Alex Olopai or Abner Venus at 664-2599/287-2553.

✓ **For Parenting Classes! Fantastic Giveaways!**  
Call 664-2552

**CALL US FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AT:**  
664-2563/2565 IN SAIPAN • 532-9393 IN ROTA • 433-2950 IN TINIAN



# Nation

## For Santorum, new challenges follow his big wins

ALLEN, Texas (AP)—One day after Rick Santorum’s startling breakthrough in the presidential race, his few aides decamped to distant states to start building campaign organizations from scratch. It was evidence of his challenge in converting sudden momentum into victories in the rush of contests ahead.

“We definitely are the campaign right now with the momentum, the enthusiasm on the ground,” the former Pennsylvania senator said Wednesday, hours after capturing Repub-

lican caucuses in Minnesota and Colorado and a non-binding primary in Missouri.

“We feel like going forward we’re going to have the money we need to make the case we want,” he said.

To replenish his coffers, Santorum arranged a weekend of fundraising events in California. It’s good timing, too: In the day since he won Tuesday’s con-



Santorum

tests, Santorum raised more than \$1 million as donors started to take a second look at his candidacy. He plans to start campaigning in Washington state on Monday, and then Ohio and Michigan in the following days.

At the same time, aides conceded he was making little or no effort in the caucuses in Maine that end this weekend,

and they are still working on plans for competing in primaries in Michigan and Arizona on Feb. 28, as well as the delegate-rich, 10-state Super Tuesday a week later.

■ ■ ■

ATLANTA (AP)—Mitt Romney still can’t seem to win over the bulk of the conservatives who make up the bedrock of the Republican Party.

Despite primary victories that have established him as the GOP presidential front-runner, his stunning trio of defeats this


week laid bare the difficulties that still could undercut his path to the party’s nomination—and hamper him in the general election to follow.

Not that he would acknowledge as much Wednesday.


“I don’t think the conservative base changes its mind day to day,” Romney told reporters, dismissing the notion that he’s got a problem with the party’s core supporters. “The places where I campaigned actively, we got actually in some respects record support from

the conservative base.”

Such denials aside, Tuesday’s three-state caucus sweep by Rick Santorum illustrated the degree to which many conservative voters remain skeptical of Romney’s commitment to the GOP base’s principles, especially given what some of them see as his history of shifting priorities. And he hasn’t been able to sell them on his main argument—that he’s the most likely in the primary field to beat Democratic President Barack Obama.



**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp  
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



**NOTICE OF SALE  
UNDER POWER OF SALE  
IN DEED OF TRUST**

**Juana S. Crisostomo** ("Trustor"), on or about October 12, 1994, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on November 1, 1994, under Document No. 94-2826 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

**LOT NO. 002 G 97, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 945 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 002 G 03 DATED MAY 31, 1989, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 90-1900, DATED MAY 14, 1990, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.**

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$41,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m.** **All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **\$41,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: */s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO*  
Corporate Director



**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp  
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

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P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp  
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

**NOTICE OF SALE  
UNDER POWER OF SALE  
IN DEED OF TRUST**







# World

**BEIRUT (AP)**—The European Union will impose harsher sanctions on Syria, a senior EU official said Wednesday, as Russia tried to broker talks between the vice president and the opposition to calm violence. Activists reported at least 50 killed in the regime's siege of the restive city of Homs.

Russia, a close ally of Syria, and the West are pushing down starkly different paths in trying to deal with Syria's nearly 11 months of bloodshed. After blocking a Western and Arab attempt to bring U.N. pres-

sure on President Bashar Assad to step down, Russia has launched a bid to show it can resolve the turmoil.

Moscow is calling for a combination of reforms by the regime and negotiations, without calling for Assad to go. Its provisions are so far finding no traction with the opposition, which dismisses promises of reform as empty gestures, refuses any negotiations while violence continues and says Assad's removal is the only option in the crisis.

Russian Prime Minister

Vladimir Putin said outside forces should let Syrians settle their conflict “independently.”

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS**

<b>BAK OF SAIPAN, INC.,</b> Plaintiff,  <b>vs.</b>  <b>CHRISTINE B. FIDELINO and CRISTEA B. FIDELINO</b> Defendants.	} } } } } } } } } }	<b>Civil Action No. 08-0119</b>    <b>NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION</b>
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by this Court on January 18, 2012, in which the undersigned was Ordered to levy, execute and sell, in accordance with law, a parcel of real property, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, Defendants' interest in and to the following real property situated in Publiklo Drive, Lower Navy Hill Area, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as described below.

Lot 023 D 96, (a consolidation of parts of Lot 023 D 07, 023 D 08, and 023 D 09; part of original Lot 023 D 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 023 D 05, the original of which was recorded October 18, 1983 as Document No. 83-0063 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale:** The sale, open to the general public (including the Defendants), will be held on **Friday, March 2, 2012, at 4:00 p.m.**, at the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, 2nd Floor of D' Torres Building in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 8th day of February, 2012.

/s/ Sikd Soalablai, Auctioneer  
Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger  
Tel. No.: (670) 235-8060  
e-mail : shinesshine2011@live.com  
(Please cc: joshuaaberger711@hotmail.com)

## Sarkozy advises against military strike on Iran

**PARIS** (AP)—French President Nicolas Sarkozy put his reputation as a stalwart friend of Israel on the line Wednesday, warning that military action was no way to deal with nuclear-minded Iran at a dinner hosted by France's main Jewish group—and his likely presidential election rival in the audience.


In the wake of new U.S. concerns that Israel might strike Iran's nuclear facilities this spring, Sarkozy reiterated his ironclad commitment to Israel's security but emphasized "the solution is never military."

“The solution is political,  
the solution is diplomatic,

the solution is in sanctions,” Sarkozy said, referring to a string of U.N. sanctions over Iran’s nuclear program, which the West fears mask designs to build weapons.

"We want the leaders of this country to understand that they have crossed a red line, and to reassure Israeli leaders so that the irreparable is not carried out," Sarkozy said of possible military action.

Tehran, whose Islamist leaders have called for Israel's destruction, insists its nuclear program is peaceful and aimed at generating electricity and civilian-sector projects.



# Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

## Office of the Executive Director



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# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## CUC-RFP-12-006, REV. #1

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**PIPELINE PROJECT MANAGEMENT, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE FOR POWER PLANT 1 & 2**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is resoliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Project Management to include Design and Construction Management services for CUC's 8-Inch Diesel Fuel Pipeline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Contractor shall furnish all labor, material and logistics associated with the Project Management Services including Design and Onsite Construction Management for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) from award to completion of the 8" diesel pipeline project. Tasks shall include but not be limited to weekly, monthly inspection reports, design completion, construction and quality assurance oversight, site visits and coordination with the CUC, construction contractor and regulatory agencies (including US EPA and/or US DOT). It is preferred that the contractor have the in-house capability and qualifications to perform all the functions required (i.e. - Project management to include Design and Construction Management services) and not subcontract any part to third party vendors.

The project involves replacement of an existing 8-inch aboveground petroleum pipeline (approx. 1 mile long) with an 8-inch underground pipeline from the Saipan seaport at the Mobil Oil Bulk Plant to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2. The underground pipe installation portion of the project includes archeological monitoring, excavation/trenching, shoring, placement of bedding, welding and testing of pipe segments, pressure relief valves, high and low point drains, valve pits, pipe jacket, bridge crossing, pipe pigging, cathodic protection, based on 49 CFR part 195 and other applicable codes. Design engineers are required to obtain the relevant licenses in CNMI, as per local professional licensing rules and regulations, details of which are available on the webpage, <http://cuccnmi.net/>.

This project is being performed under a stipulated order (SO) being overseen by the U.S. EPA and Federal Court. The project is funded primarily by a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs.


The Revised Scope-of-Work (SOW) will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) (CHST-Chamorro Standard Time), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays. All other documentation can be downloaded from the website, <http://cuccnmi.net/>.

**The response to this RFP** must be received with the title **"PIPELINE PROJECT MANAGEMENT, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE"** and **shall only be sent** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via e-mail to [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via e-mail to [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org) no later than **Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 10:00 AM (CHST)** local time and the equivalent time of **Tuesday February 28, 2012, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**. Late submissions and other means of submission will not be considered. A return receipt for the email must be requested and received by the proposer to ensure that the email transmission has been received by the deadline, by CUC.

All inquiries and clarifications must be submitted in writing no later than **Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 10:00 AM ChST**, and the equivalent time of Tuesday, February 21, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org); and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org). CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation. All interested parties including those who have participated in the recently closed RFP are requested to also register through the website - <http://cuccnmi.net/> or e-mailing their request to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via e-mail [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org) no later than **Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 10:00 AM (CHST)** local time or the equivalent time of **Tuesday, February 21, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**. CUC requires all the proposers to send their questions in writing so that the responses can also be made available to all the interested vendors, well in time.


Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged by the Source Selection Committee (SSC). CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ ABE UTU MALAE  
 Executive Director



# Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

## Office of the Executive Director



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### INVITATION FOR BIDS

#### CUC-IFB-12-007

**SAN VICENTE SERVICE AREA EXTENSION, EXPLORING DRIVE-FINA SISU & HERMAN'S BAKERY WATERLINE REPLACEMENT**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of San Vicente Service Area Extension, Exploring Drive-Fina Sisu & Herman's Bakery Waterline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The project consists, in general of the extension of the San Vicente water service area to Dandan Village and the replacement of existing water distribution line from Exploring Drive to Fina Sisu and Herman's Bakery including appurtenances.

The proposed project will also include the installation of fire hydrants, air relief valves, blow-off-valves, new service lateral stub-outs and reconnection of existing service laterals to the new water distribution line.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 350.00 for one set; at the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **February 9, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.

**One (1) original and Seven (7) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-12-007, San Vicente Service Area Extension, Exploring Drive-Fina Sisu & Herman's Bakery Waterline Replacement Project"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 06, 2012**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 27, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email [manny.sablan@cucug.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucug.org) with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email [larry.manacop@cucug.org](mailto:larry.manacop@cucug.org) or Yvonne Cabrera, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email [yvonne.cabrera@cucug.org](mailto:yvonne.cabrera@cucug.org) and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – [mika.muna@cucug.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucug.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE  
 Executive Director



# Off the Wall

## OFFBEAT BRIEFS

### Kobayashi downs record 337 wings at Pa. Wing Bowl

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Competitive-eating champ Takeru Kobayashi conquered Philadelphia's annual gustatory gorge-fest by eating 337 chicken wings in a half-hour before a crowd of nearly 20,000 at Wing Bowl XX. The Japanese phenom demolished the record of 255 set last year by Jonathan "Super" Squibb. The Friday morning extravaganza drew thousands to the Wells Fargo Center before sunrise to watch competitors stuff themselves with chicken wings. Kobayashi claimed a \$20,000 cash prize for his victory. It was the six-time Nathan's Hot Dog eating contest champ's first time competing at Wing Bowl, though he consumed a cheesesteak in 24 seconds as part of an eating exhibition last year. Squibb had been trying to win his fourth consecutive Wing Bowl crown, but the Berlin, N.J., man finished a distant second with 271 wings.

### Montana man fined \$1K for instigating police chase

BUTTE, Mont. (AP)—A Butte man who told officers he instigated a police chase because he always wanted to try it, found out it'll cost him a \$1,000 fine to go with his tire damage. The Montana Standard in Butte reports 55-year-old John C. Hughes pleaded guilty Thursday in City Court to reckless driving while eluding a peace officer. The chase began in the pre-dawn hours Thursday when officers reported a man followed a patrol car for seven blocks before pulling his SUV around and taking off at speeds of up to 70 mph. Officers say Hughes was traveling faster than 100 mph on the interstate before officers laid out a spike strip to flatten his tires. When asked why he started the chase, Hughes said, "I just always wanted to do that," according to the police report.

### Butterfingers stunt tweaks Patriots' dropped pass

BOSTON (AP)—People aren't quite done piling on New England Patriots receiver Wes Welker for a dropped fourth-quarter pass that helped the New York Giants win the Super Bowl. An online pawnbroker dumped hundreds of Butterfinger candy bars in Boston's Copley Square on Tuesday with a note: "Thank you Wes Welker." The tongue-in-cheek stunt by Pawngo.com drew takers for the candy and a citation from the city for commercial dumping. Pawngo CEO Todd Hills says in a statement to *The Boston Globe* the Denver- and Chicago-based company "thought Boston fans might at least get a laugh out of it." He says the company respects Welker and the Patriots. Welker led the NFL with 122 receptions but dropped a slightly off-target pass from quarterback Tom Brady with about four minutes left Sunday night. The Giants won 21-17.

### Judge: Buy wife flowers, then take her to dinner

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—A spat over forgetting to wish his wife a happy birthday landed a South Florida man in jail on domestic violence charges. When Judge "Jay" Hurley heard the circumstances that brought 47-year-old Joseph Bray to bond court Tuesday, he issued a unique ruling. Hurley ordered Bray to buy a birthday card and flowers for his wife before taking her to dinner at Red Lobster and bowling afterward. Hurley ruled the couple should begin seeing a marriage counselor immediately. The South Florida *Sun Sentinel* reports Hurley felt this was a "better resolution" since the incident was minor and Bray had no prior arrests. Bray's wife told the judge she's not afraid of her husband. A police report indicates Bray pushed his wife during an argument but never hit her.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

### Capt. Salvador S. Koshiro

We, the family of the late Capt. Salvador S. Koshiro would like to invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the anniversary of our beloved's passing unto eternal life.

The following Mass will be offered at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 am everyday from Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> thru Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.

On the last day Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, breakfast will be served immediately after Mass at Kristo Rai Social Hall.

Your Prayers and Presence are greatly appreciated.

*Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase' and Mesulang!*

**The Family**

## A year ago, our dearly beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, *In Memoriam* **FRANCISCA S. DELEON GUERRERO**

*Was called by her Creator.*

We, the family of the late Francisca S. Deleon Guerrero would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the anniversary of our beloved's passing unto eternal life.

Daily mass will be offered at St. Jude Church at:  
February 14 to 17 - 6:00pm  
February 18 - 7:00am  
February 19 - 6:00am  
February 20 to 21 - 6:00pm  
February 22 - 6:00am

Rosary will be offered at 6:00pm at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Santos in Dandan on February 22nd, and dinner will be served immediately after.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence are sincerely appreciated.

**The Family**

## Death Anniversary

### In Loving Memory of **Rosalia Tydingco Salas Concepcion 5<sup>th</sup>** Maximo Soo Concepcion 35<sup>th</sup>

We, the family, humbly invite all of our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Daily mass is offered at 6:00am, Kristo Rai Church

On the final day, Saturday, February 11th, mass will be celebrated at 6:00am. Breakfast will be served immediately at the Kristo Rai, Church Social Hall.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

*Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase*

**Ignacio S. Concepcion, Julia and Ronald DILguerrero & Family,  
Maria and Steven Koch & Family, Maximo Concepcion Jr. and Melvina Igitol  
& Family, Lillian and Michael Camacho & Family, Linda and Robert Torres  
& Family, Jesse S. Concepcion & Children**



IN CELEBRATION  
OF HIS NEW LIFE

# †Rembert Vincent Manglona Hofschneider

Better known as "Rodney"

Born to Life – April 16, 1962

Born to Eternal Life – February 05, 2012

*In his new life, he now joins his:*

**Father:** †Henry Carl Villagomez Hofschneider

**Father-In-Law:** †Ordorico Deleon Guerrero San Nicolas

**Brother-In-Law:** †Eduardo San Nicolas Borja

*His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:*

**Common-Law Wife:** Vicenta Pangelinan San Nicolas

**Daughter:** Chailing San Nicolas Hofschneider

**Mother:** Magdalena Manglona Hofschneider

**Mother-In-Law:** Carmen Pangelinan San Nicolas

**Brothers/Sisters:**

Edwin M. & Vivian V. Hofschneider

Esther H. & Jeffrey L. Barr

Jeffrey M. & Rosita M. Hofschneider

Arthur M. Hofschneider & Belta M. Pangelinan

Jeanette H. & Joaquin H. Borja

Arlene H. & Jose M. Pangelinan

Donna H. Ada & Ronnie C. Quitano

Annie H. & Juan T. King

Henry Carl M. Hofschneider & Currine C. Cepeda

Donald M. Hofschneider

Tianna Lynn Hofschneider

Heinz Joseph M. Hofschneider

**Brothers/Sisters In-Laws:**

Dolores Antonia P. San Nicolas & John DLG. Cabrera

Dolores SN. & Khokon Ali

Jose P. & Julie D. San Nicolas

Jesse P. & Rose Sylvia C. San Nicolas

Feliciano Q. Hofschneider

*Rembert Vincent will be greatly missed by his Aunties and Uncles.*

*He is additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews, extended families, and friends.*

Nightly rosary is being offered at 7:00 PM at San Jose Church, Tinian. Funeral service will be held on Monday, February 13, 2012 at San Jose Church, Tinian. His remains will be escorted from Tinian Health Center to San Jose Church, Tinian, at 8:00 AM. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM.

Interment Services will immediately follow at the San Jose, Tinian Public Cemetery.

*Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.*

**Thank You - Si Yu'us Ma'ase**

**Mrs. Magdalena Manglona Hofschneider,  
children and families  
Vicenta P. San Nicolas and  
Chailing San Nicolas Hofschneider**



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**\$6.00** Student Admission with Valid I.D.  
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Friday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
**OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK**

### ★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★

**Journey2: Mysterious Island**

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

The Rock, Venessa Hudgens, Michael Caine  
Adventure • Rated PG

**Synopsis:**  
The worlds of Jules Verne and Robert Louis Stevenson combine in this sequel to the surprise 2008 3D hit Journey to the Center of the Earth. Richard Outten provides the screenplay for the New Line Cinema film that plans to bring the in-your-face action to the fabled island that became the basis for such books as Treasure Island and Gulliver's Travels. Dwayne Johnson stars in the movie, with Josh Hutcherson returning to the franchise -- something that original cast member Brendan Fraser opted out of due to scheduling conflicts. Michael Caine co-stars.

**Safe House**

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Denzel Washington, Ryan Reynolds  
Spy film, Thriller • Rated R

**The Descendants**

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

George Clooney, Shailene Woodley  
Comedy, Drama • Rated R

**The Woman In Black**

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Daniel Radcliffe, Ciarán Hinds  
Thriller, Mystery • Rated PG 13

**Chronicle**

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Dane DeHaan, Alex Russel  
Thriller • Rated PG 13

**The Grey**

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Liam Neeson, Frank Grillo  
Adventure • Rated R

**Underworld: Awakening**

Friday		4:25	9:40
Saturday		4:25	9:40
Sunday		4:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	

Kate Beckinsale, Stephen Rea  
Horror • Rated R

**The Devil Inside**

Friday		7:25
Saturday	1:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	7:25
Monday thru Thursday		7:25

Fernanda Andrade, Simon Quarterman  
Horror • Rated R

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# Life & Style

## CNN suspends analyst for Beckham comments

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN suspended political analyst Roland Martin on Wednesday for “offensive” tweets during the Super Bowl that some critics said were anti-gay.

Martin commented on Twitter about a commercial during the Super Bowl that showed soccer star David Beckham in underwear: “If a dude at your Super Bowl party is hyped about David Beckham’s H&M underwear ad, smack the ish out of him.”

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation said the remark advocated violence against gays. Martin said that he was making a joke about soccer

and that he doesn’t support violence against anyone.

Martin also tweeted: “Who the hell was that New England Patriot they just showed in a head to toe pink suit? Oh, he needs a visit from (hash)team-whipdass.”

## Prince Harry qualifies as Apache helicopter pilot

LONDON (AP)—Britain’s defense ministry says Prince Harry has qualified as an Apache attack helicopter pilot, graduating as the best co-pilot gunner in his class after 18 months of training.

The ministry said Thursday the prize recognizes the student

Martin later issued an apology on his website saying he was “truly sorry” to those who felt his tweet was anti-gay, homophobic or advocating violence. “I’m disheartened that my words would embolden prejudice,” he said.

whose performance is the best among their peer group.

Known in the military as Capt. Wales, the third-in-line to the British throne was awarded his prize Wednesday.

The prince, who trained in California, in southern Arizona and in Britain, will now fly Apaches

CNN said Wednesday that Martin’s remarks were “regrettable and offensive” and he will not be on air “for the time being.”

“Language that demeans is inconsistent with the values and culture of our organization, and is not tolerated,” CNN said.

on exercises in the U.K.

In December, a British newspaper said Harry had acknowledged he will be deployed to Afghanistan for a second time. He briefly served there from 2007. The defense ministry has declined to confirm details of the prince’s future deployments.

*In Loving Memory of*  
**†Felisa Ilano Chargualaf Basa**  
*Also lovingly known as “Tan Felisa or Chicha”*  
**February 26, 1930 – February 5, 2012**  
*Of Chalan Kanoa District #3, Saipan was called to her eternal rest on Sunday, February 5, 2012, at the age of 81.*

*In her new life she now joins her loved ones who have gone before her:*  
**Husband:** Gregorio Blas Basa  
**Daughter:** Trinidad Basa Carlson  
**Sons:** Benjamin Paul Ch. Basa; Joseph Diego Ch. Basa  
**Son-in-law:** Richard Borja Cruz  
**Parents:** Jose Mafnas Chargualaf and Trinidad San Nicolas Ilano  
**Parents-in-law:** Jose Conception Basa and Dolores Torres Blas  
**Sisters/Brothers-In-laws:** Joaquin C. Chargualaf/Anna, Isidro C. Chargualaf/Maria, Emiliana Ch. Lizama/Vicente, Ana Ch. Villanueva/Tomas, Maria C. Demapan/Pedro, Rita C. Benavente/Juan, Vicenta C. Tudela/Roberto, Juan I. Cepeda/Victoria C., Vicente I. Cepeda/Nicolasa M., Luis I. Cepeda/Trinidad, Isabel Ch. Pangelinan/Vicente B., Francisca I. Chargualaf, Victoria Ch. Camacho/Lorenzo T., Virginia S. Chargualaf, Marcelina Ch. Santos/Saturnino Dlg., Margarita B. Villanueva/Joaquin P., Manuel S. Sablan, Herman Pangelinan, Bartola S. Basa

*She will live in the hearts and memories of her children and their families:*  
†Trinidad B. and Tim Carlson: Ricky Clayton & Ani Clayton (Kai) and Jessica Clayton (Nicholas)  
Elizabeth B. and Tony Barge: Jeff & Deborah Barge-Rodgers (Antonio & Harrison) and Steven Becker & Christina Barge (Elijah)  
Dorothy B. and Robert Post: Jason & Arielle Post (Griffin & Peyton) and Jennifer & Steven Todd (Zachary & Emma)  
Alvin Ch. Basa and Susan Grozek Basa: Brandon Basa, Nathan Basa, and Angela Dillon (Cy & Pyrrha)  
Jessica Ch. Basa: Vera Basa & Robert Leto (AJ, JJ, & RJ), Anthony & Christina Magofna (Aphrodite & Aries), Benjamin Magofna, Jamila Magofna & Lushawn Reyes (LJ & Louis), Tisha Magofna, and Trinidad Magofna  
Gregorio Ch. Basa and Consuelo P. Basa: Jonathan & Jocelyn Park (Princess & Dae-young), Emilisa Basa & Roy Norita, Jr. (Hu’nonnie), and Joseph Basa  
†Joseph Diego Ch. Basa  
†Benjamin Paul Ch. Basa and Leslie Basa: Joseph Dato-Basa  
Lillian B. Cruz and Robert Borja Diaz: Thomas Basa & Leslie Pangelinan (Dylen, Tommy, & Tholeyan), Felisha-Ann Basa (Richard), and Richard Cruz, Jr. & Ashley Castro (Rileyann)  
Vivian B. and Larry LG Iriarte, Jr.: Tessiny Iriarte and Lorenzo LG Iriarte, III

**Brother:** Domingo Ilano Chargualaf

**Sisters and Brothers-in-law:** Maria Basa Sablan, Theresita Basa Pertudo and Leo O. Pertudo, and Jose Blas Basa.

*She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.*  
Daily Mass offered at 6:00am and Holy Rosary prayers at 8:00pm at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Saipan.  
On Monday, February 13, 2012, she will be transfered from CHC Chapel at 7:00am; and shall be escorted to the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral followed by responso, rosary and viewing.  
Eucharist/Celebration of Christian Burial will be at 11:00am followed by interment service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.  
From Children, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren and Family



# Katy Perry, Russell Brand finalize divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has granted Katy Perry and Russell Brand a divorce, although the pair won't be legally split up until July.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Marc Marmaro signed the judgment Wednesday, less than six weeks after Brand filed for divorce and one day after Perry filed paperwork stating that she and Brand have agreed on all financial issues.

The exact terms of the breakup are confidential.

Brand, Perry and Marmaro all signed the judgment Wednesday, court records show. The couple will become legally single again on July 14 because California law requires that couples wait at least six months after filing before their divorce can be finalized.

The judgment calls for Perry's maiden name, Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson, to be restored.

Neither Brand, a British actor and comedian, or Perry, a pop superstar, indicated in court filings when they separated.

They were married in October 2010 in a lavish wedding at a resort inside a tiger reserve in India.

Their wedding came at a high-point for both of their careers. Brand was introduced to U.S. audi-



In this April 19, 2011 file photo, British actor Russell Brand and his wife Katy Perry arrive for the European premiere of "Arthur," in London. AP

ences after hosting the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards and has since starred in films including "Arthur," "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" and

"Get Him to the Greek."

Perry has turned out a string of pop hits, including "I Kissed a Girl" and "California Gurls" and

is scheduled to perform at Sunday night's Grammy Awards. She has also been nominated for two awards for her song "Firework."

## Schwarzenegger joins Stallone in 'The Tomb'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's an action superstar reunion: Arnold Schwarzenegger is joining Sylvester Stallone for the thriller "The Tomb."

The filmmakers said Wednesday that Schwarzenegger has signed on to star alongside Stallone in the prison-break adventure.

Schwarzenegger previously had a cameo in Stallone's action hit "The Expendables" and also appears in its upcoming sequel.



**Schwarzenegger**

"The Tomb" will feature Schwarzenegger as an inmate opposite Stallone, who plays the designer of a master prison forced to escape from his own jailhouse. Directed by Mikael Hafstrom, "The Tomb" begins shooting in Louisiana this spring.

Schwarzenegger is just finishing work on "The Last Stand," his first starring role since returning to acting after serving as California's governor.

## Dr. House hangs up his Fox TV stethoscope

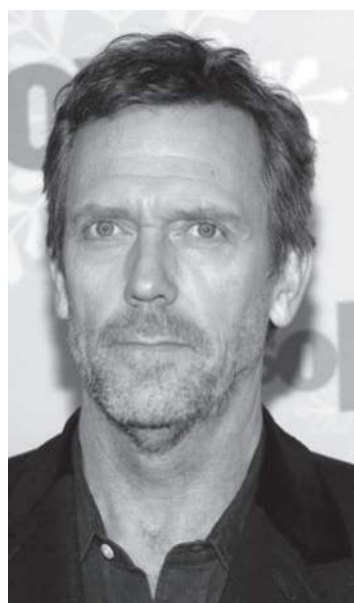
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fox's medical drama "House" is ending its eight-year run this season.

The show's producers, including Emmy-nominated star Hugh Laurie, said it was a "painful" decision but that the time had come to bring "House" to a close.

The drama stars Laurie as Dr. Gregory House, a brilliant but troubled physician with a gift for unraveling medical mysteries. Omar Epps, Robert Sean Leonard and Charlyne Yi are part of the ensemble cast.

In a statement Wednesday, Laurie and his fellow producers said they imagined Dr. House as an "enigmatic creature," and that it was best for him to vanish while there was still mystery in the air.

The season finale date for "House," which airs 9 p.m. EST Monday, was not announced.



In this Jan. 11, 2011 file photo, actor Hugh Laurie arrives at the FOX 2011 Winter Press Tour party in Pasadena, Calif. AP

## McCartney to debut new songs live on iTunes stream

NEW YORK (AP)—Paul McCartney will debut the songs from his new album "Kisses on the Bottom" in a free live streaming performance on iTunes.

The performance takes place at 10 p.m. EST Thursday from Capitol Studios in Los Angeles where much of the new album was recorded.

"Kisses on the Bottom" features McCartney's interpretation of several beloved standards like "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter," "Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive" and "Bye Bye Blackbird," and has two new songs, "My Valentine" with Eric Clapton and "Only Our Hearts" with Stevie Wonder.

The former Beatle recorded the album with the help of Diana Krall and her backing band.



In this Dec. 5, 2011 file photo, musician Paul McCartney performs on stage during his "Good Evening Europe" European Tour, his first since 2004, at the O2 arena in London. AP

## Husband behind the wheel is cruising for a bruising

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**DEAR ABBY:** There is an ongoing issue between my husband and me. It's his disregard for my personal safety. Our large city is known for its heavy, fast traffic and impatient drivers. "Jon" is a good driver. He likes to drive in the left (passing) lane on the highway or tollway, usually about five miles above the posted speed limit.

This is considered too slow for many drivers, who become impatient and aggressive having to be behind us in the fast lane. They flash their headlights and tailgate us, trying to get him to move over into the right lane so they can pass, but Jon refuses to yield. If they start to pass us on the right, he will speed up and race them so they can't get ahead of him. He says he's "teaching them a lesson."

I have told my husband repeatedly that these games are dangerous and they scare me. Not only could we get into an accident, but we could get into an ugly confrontation or worse. I am terrified in these situations and he knows it, but he continues. I try to drive as often as possible, but I can't see as well at night as I used to, so Jon drives at night or when we're going long distances. With the price of gas and considering the inconvenience and inefficiency, it doesn't make sense to go in separate cars. Do you have any suggestions?

ON A COLLISION COURSE IN HOUSTON

**DEAR ON A COLLISION COURSE:** Jon should be told that impeding the flow of traffic is a very dangerous practice. His childish behavior could incite road rage, and it is everyone's responsibility to minimize instances in which road rage can occur.

Contact the Department of Public Safety to get a copy of the Texas Drivers Handbook. That way you can show Jon in black and white that his behavior is not only wrong but dangerous. While some husbands are not receptive to a wife's comments about their driving, most will listen to what a state trooper has to say about good driving practices versus bad ones. Let's hope it doesn't come to that.

And one more word of advice: Continue being the driver as often as possible. Your lives could depend on it.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I was discussing with my 26-year-old daughter how parents punish their kids, when suddenly she told me that she hated that I would make her write "lines" when she was growing up. She mentioned that one day I made her do it when her friend was there to play with her. I felt really bad about this and wonder why she is bringing this up now.

WONDERING DOWN SOUTH

**DEAR WONDERING:** It came up now because punishment was the topic of conversation, and she flashed back on how humiliating it was to have been punished in front of a friend. Clearly it made an impact -- and it would be interesting to know if the infraction was repeated after that.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### The Beach Boys to start party early at Grammys

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Get the sunglasses and tanning oil out: The Beach Boys are reuniting at The Grammys Awards for their first live performance in more than two decades. The original lineup of Brian Wilson, Mike Love, Al Jardine, Bruce Johnston and David Marks will be joined by Grammy nominees Foster the People and Maroon 5 in a special performance. A news release Wednesday also says The Civil Wars, Diana Krall and Joe Walsh have been added to the performance lineup and Common, Reba McEntire and Diana Ross will be presenters. The Beach Boys announced late last year that they would reunite to celebrate their 50th anniversary with a new album and tour. The Grammy Awards will be broadcast live Sunday night on CBS.

### Rock Hall adds 6 groups to list of inductees

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame says six additional groups will be inducted this year after a committee determined they should be recognized with previously enshrined original lead singers. The Blue Caps, the Comets, the Crickets, the Famous Flames, the Midnighters and the Miracles will be inducted at the April ceremony in Cleveland. The Crickets' Buddy Holly and the Famous Flames' James Brown were inducted in 1986. The Comets' Bill Haley and the Miracles' Smokey Robinson were inducted in 1987. The Midnighters' Hank Ballard was inducted in 1990 and the Blue Caps' Gene Vincent was inducted in 1998. Previously announced inductees are the Beastie Boys, Donovan, Guns N' Roses, Laura Nyro, Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Small Faces/The Faces, Freddie King, Don Kirshner, Cosimo Matassa, Tom Dowd and Glyn Johns.











# Parker leads Spurs over Sixers, 100-90



**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—San Antonio's Tony Parker scored 37 points to lead the Spurs to a 100-90 win over the Philadelphia 76ers in Wednesday's clash of two NBA divisional leaders.

Gary Neal added 18 off the bench for the Southwest Division-leading Spurs, who improved their road record to 5-8, against their impressive home record of 13-1.

Lou Williams scored 22 points for the Atlantic Division-leading Sixers, who are 4-2 nearing the end of a seven-game stretch against the league's top teams. They have lost to the Spurs and Miami but beat Orlando, Chicago, Atlanta and the Los Angeles Lakers.

## Magic 102, Heat 89

In Orlando, Dwight Howard had 25 points and 24 rebounds as long-shooting Orlando beat Miami.

Ryan Anderson scored 27 for the Magic, who hit 17 3-pointers. Anderson had five 3s—all in the first half—and grabbed 11 rebounds while Howard posted his 20th double-double of the season.

Orlando set a team record with 42 3-point attempts but were two short of the record for most converted.

Dwyane Wade led the Heat with 33 points, but only 11 after halftime, as Miami's three-game streak was ended.

## Hawks 97, Pacers 87

In Atlanta, Josh Smith scored 28 points and grabbed 12 rebounds as Atlanta defeated Indiana to snap a three-game home losing streak.

The Hawks, who had fallen behind by big margins in each game on the homestand, finally got off to a good start. Atlanta built a 21-point lead in the first half and withstood repeated runs by Indiana over the final two quarters.

Joe Johnson added 20 points for the Hawks.

Danny Granger scored 21 points to lead the Pacers, who have lost nine straight in Atlanta, dating back to 2006.

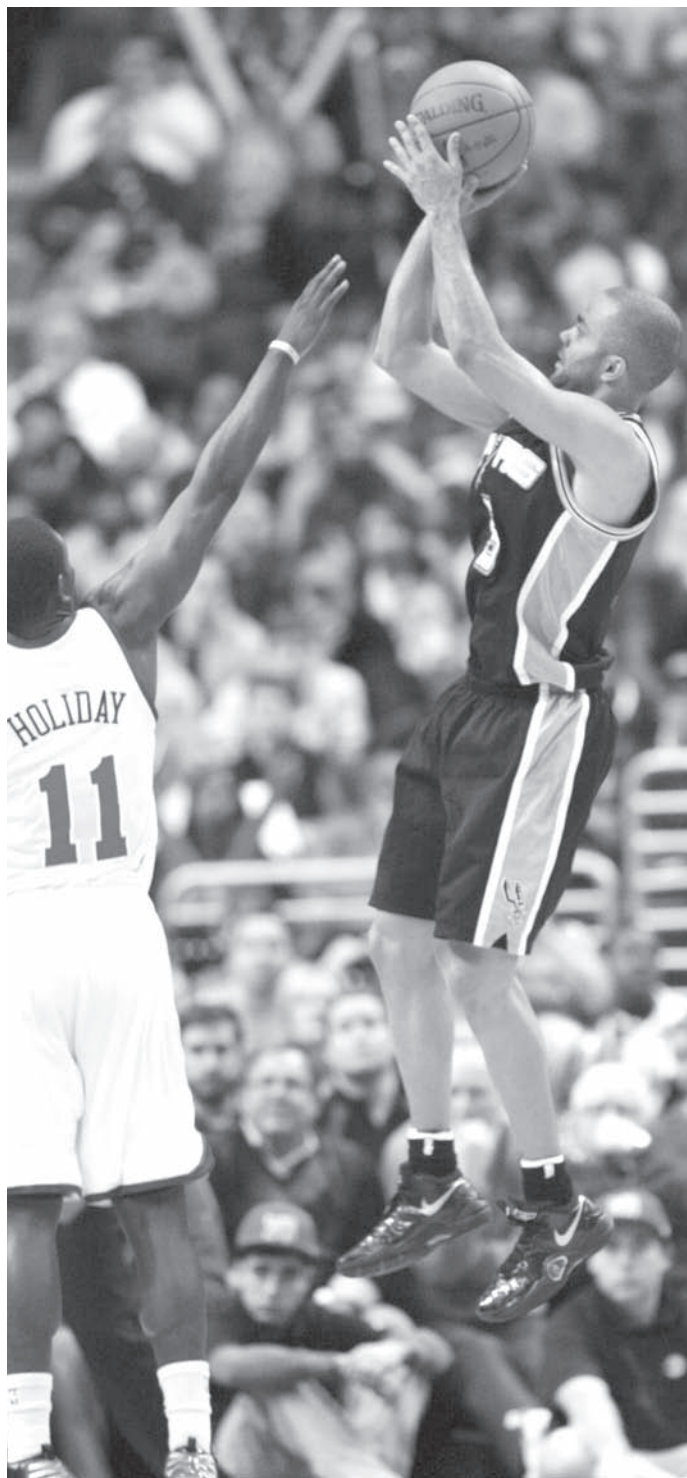
## Mavericks 105, Nuggets 95

In Denver, Dirk Nowitzki scored 25 points as Dallas snapped a three-game losing skid by beating undermanned Denver.

Vince Carter added 17 for the Mavericks, who won despite the ongoing absence of the injured Jason Kidd.

Rudy Fernandez and Al Harrington each had 17 points off the bench to lead the Nuggets, who lost their fourth straight.

Arron Afflalo and Nene returned to Denver's lineup after sitting out Monday's loss to Houston, but Denver was still without leading scorer Danilo Gallinari (left ankle) and Timofey Mozgov (left ankle).



San Antonio Spurs' Tony Parker, right, goes up for shot as Philadelphia 76ers' Jrue Holiday (11) defends in the second half of an NBA basketball game on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012, in Philadelphia.

Corey Brewer was absent following the death of his father.

## Rockets 103, Trail Blazers 96

In Portland, Chase Budinger had 22 points off the bench to lead Houston past Portland.

Starting guard Kyle Lowry had 12 points before he left with an arm injury late in the third quarter and he did not return. The extent of the injury was not immediately known.

Jamal Crawford came off the bench to score 21 points for the Trail Blazers, who rallied to tie it 77-77 in the fourth quarter.

## Bulls 90, Hornets 67

In New Orleans, Chicago held New Orleans in check, with the hosts only just avoiding a franchise-record low score.

Marco Belinelli's 3-pointer with just a second left carried the Hornets past the club low of 65 points.

Carlos Boozer scored 18 points and Joakim Noah had 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Bulls, who won their fourth straight game.

Chris Kaman scored 17 for the Hornets.

## Grizzlies 85, Timberwolves 80

In Memphis, Rudy Gay had 19 points and nine rebounds as Memphis halted a three-game slide with victory over Minnesota.

Quincy Pondexter added a career-high 17 points for the Grizzlies, who won despite shooting just 37 percent.

J.J. Barea led the Timberwolves with 17 points and six assists. Minnesota was also inaccurate, shooting just 39 percent and setting a season low for points. They played without leading scorer Kevin Love, who completed his two-game suspension.

## Cavaliers 99, Clippers 92

In Cleveland, Ramon Sessions scored 24 points in his first start of the season as a last-minute replacement for injured Kyrie Irving as Cleveland downed Los Angeles.

Antawn Jamison scored 27 points to lead Cleveland.

Blake Griffin had 25 points and 15 rebounds for the Clippers, who tied it at 87-87 with 2:10 left after having trailed by

15 in the third quarter, but could not get ahead.

Los Angeles was playing its first game without injured guard Chauncey Billups, out for the season with a torn Achilles tendon.

## Bucks 105, Raptors 99

In Toronto, Carlos Delfino scored a season-high 25 points against his former team as Milwaukee won its first game in four, beating Toronto.

Delfino, who played for the Raptors in 2007-08, matched his season high with nine rebounds.

Drew Gooden had 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Bucks, who have won seven of the past

eight against the Raptors.

DeMar DeRozan scored 25 points for Toronto, which has lost three straight.

## Knicks 107, Wizards 93

In Washington, Jeremy Lin had 23 points and a career-high 10 assists as New York beat Washington and notched a third straight win.

Tyson Chandler scored 25 points with 11 rebounds, finishing two points short of his career high, but it was Lin's night again. Following his breakout games of 25 points against New Jersey and 28 against Utah, Lin was 9 for 14 from the field and 5 of 6 from the line.

The Knicks won again with-

out leading scorers Carmelo Anthony and Amare Stoudemire, and made it eight straight victories over Washington.

John Wall led the Wizards with 29 points.

## Pistons 99, Nets 92

In Newark, Greg Monroe had 20 points and 12 rebounds to lift Detroit over New Jersey for its season-best third straight victory.

Jonas Jerebko added 16 points as the Pistons snapped a seven-game road losing streak despite giving away most of an 18-point second-half lead.

Deron Williams scored 17 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Nets, who have lost four in a row.

# Billups vows to return from injury

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—Chauncey Billups will only watch as the Clippers continue their promising season without him.

This isn't going to be easy.

With his left leg encased in a plastic protective boot and a newly issued crutch standing nearby, Billups sprawled across a few seats Wednesday inside Quicken Loans Arena as his teammates went through their first pregame shootaround since their veteran guard and leader suffered a season-ending injury.

Billups tore his Achilles tendon, prematurely ending his first season with Los Angeles and 15th in the NBA.

He won't let it be his last.

"My career is definitely not over," the 35-year-old said. "I'm not going to crawl out of this league. I'm going to go out on my own two feet. I will be back."

Billups' season came to a stunning end in Orlando on Monday night, when he crumpled to the floor without being touched. After missing a 3-pointer in the fourth quarter, Billups took one step toward the loose ball when his leg buckled. As play went the other way, Billups assessed his injury and knew right away something was terribly wrong.

"When I first went down, it felt like someone kind of kicked me," Billups said. "But when I tried to get back up and step on it, I didn't feel anything and I knew it was something I had never felt before and I knew it was bad."

Tests taken Tuesday at the Cleveland Clinic confirmed the Achilles tear, a serious injury requiring eight months of recovery time. Billups returned to Los Angeles on Wednesday. Clippers coach Vinny Del Negro said Billups will meet with

a specialist before it's decided when he'll have surgery.

The loss of Billups is a significant blow to the rising Clippers, who have become one of the league's top attractions with All-Stars Chris Paul and Blake Griffin and a solid supporting cast. A punching bag for decades, they have even threatened to steal home turf away from the Lakers in Los Angeles.

Billups had been a huge addition for the club, which claimed the five-time All-Star in December after he was waived by the New York Knicks under the league's new amnesty clause. He was averaging 14.9 points and four assists, modest numbers. But it was his impact in mentoring Paul and Griffin that made Billups invaluable.

"It's a big blow because of how much Chauncey means to the team: his leadership, his play, all that," said Del Negro. "But we're going to have to handle the adversity and I expect the guys to step up. We have to come together as a team and handle it. I feel bad for him. I thought he was just getting comfortable and his intangibles will be missed."

"But he's not going anywhere. He'll be missed, but he'll be around the team."

Del Negro said Randy Foye will take Billups' starting spot alongside Paul, the elite point guard who said the injury to his respected teammate has impacted him emotionally.

"Everybody has to step up," Paul said. "There's not one person that can fill a void that big. Everybody is going to have to do a little bit more and it definitely starts with me and Blake. It's tough. I've had a lot of time to think about it and talk to

Chauncey. And if anybody can come back from this, it would be him."

Beyond cutting short what Billups believed was evolving into a "special season" for him and the Clippers, the injury also ended his dreams of playing in the Olympics.

Billups was one of 20 players chosen as candidates to play on the U.S. team at the London Games. He'll be watching them this summer as well.

"That's one of my big, big disappointments as well," Billups said. "I should have been on the team that won it four years ago but I pulled out because of a family issue, my mother was sick. I never thought I would have another chance to do it and was in a position to do it and now this. So that's disappointing, man."

"But like I said, one thing you can't control is fate. I'm just going to keep moving right along and I'll be back."

Once he has surgery, Billups intends to help the Clippers any way he can. He has already spoken to the team about pushing through the adversity. He won't let them use his loss as an excuse.

"I'll be watching the games and texting them and coaching and helping them do what I think can be one special season," he said. "I think it can still happen."

Billups' contract with the Clippers only runs through this season. Mr. Big Shot wants another shot as long as they'll have him.

"I feel like I have some unfinished business here," he said. "I love the movement. I love what's going on. We had a really good thing going and I'd like to continue that."

# Stern: Howard's uncertain future won't hurt All-Star Game

**HOUSTON** (AP)—NBA Commissioner David Stern doesn't think Dwight Howard's uncertain future will overshadow the All-Star game in Orlando in three weeks.

The commissioner spoke

Wednesday in Houston, where he officially announced that the All-Star Game would be held there in 2013. Houston hosted the league's All-Star weekend in 2006, and the city also hosted the game in 1989,

in the Astrodome.

Stern says the lockout has not affected TV ratings or attendance this season. He says the league is doing well in China despite Yao Ming's retirement last summer.



# Ricky Williams says he's retiring from NFL



**OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP)**—Ricky Williams is retiring from the NFL.

Again.

This time, however, it appears to be for good.

The 34-year-old Williams told the Baltimore Ravens on Tuesday he won't be back to fulfill the second year of a contract he signed in August. Playing as a backup to Ray Rice this year, Williams ran for 444 yards and scored two touchdowns.

He also became the 26th player in NFL history to reach 10,000 yards rushing, reaching the plateau in the season finale at Cincinnati.

"The NFL has been an amazing page in this chapter of my life," Williams said. "I pray that all successive adventures offer me the same potential for growth, success and most importantly, fun. ... As for what's next, I am excited about all the opportunities ahead—continuing my education, running The Ricky Williams Foundation and whatever other opportunities present themselves."

Williams retired previously before the 2004 season when facing a four-game suspension for violating the league's drug policy. He returned in 2005, then left to spend the 2006 season with Toronto of the Canadian Football League.

After an outstanding college

career at Texas, where he won the Heisman Trophy, Williams broke into the NFL in 1999 with the New Orleans Saints. Mike Ditka, then coach of the Saints, traded all the team's draft and first- and third-round picks in 2000 to pick Williams fifth overall.

Williams spent only three years with New Orleans, but during over 11 years in the league he had five 1,000-yard rushing seasons and finished with 10,009 yards on the ground.

Williams led the NFL in 2002 with 1,853 yards rushing for the Miami Dolphins and received his lone Pro Bowl invitation that season. He backed that up with 1,372 yards in 2003, giving him what remains the two most productive rushing seasons in Dolphins history.

Although Williams' last start was in 2009, he enjoyed coming off the bench for the Ravens.

"It's been interesting," he said in November. "It's been an adjustment for me, but I love the organization and I love my teammates so I'm having a good time. I'm enjoying myself. Anytime you play a team sport, the success of the team really makes everything better. It's nice."

Baltimore went 12-4 this season and lost to New England in the AFC championship game.

During that November interview, Williams was asked whether playing as a backup could pos-

sibly extend his career.

"At this point, my focus is just to finish my career strong," he said. "I'm not even thinking two or three years down the line. But one positive about not carrying the ball is my body does feel good."

Williams scored 73 touchdowns over his career, all but eight of them on the ground. His last score came on Dec. 4 against Cleveland.

"I have to thank coach (John) Harbaugh and the Ravens organization for the opportunity they gave me this year," Williams said. "I had so much fun and really appreciated the chance to finish on such a great note."

Williams fit in well with the Ravens and made a lasting impression on Rice, who led the NFL this season with 2,068 yards from scrimmage.

"I was a big fan of Ricky before we were teammates, but being around him this year is the best thing that happened to me in my NFL career," Rice said. "As a young player, you need to be around a guy who knows what he is doing, and Ricky was tremendous to learn from. The way he took care of his body and the way he prepared, he always showed that he is a true professional. This past season with him is a year I will never forget."

"I had the best year with him beside me, and that was no ac-

cident. I believe that Ricky Williams is a Hall of Famer. All that he has done in his career, he deserves that."

## Holmes staying put with Jets after clause kicks in

**NEW YORK (AP)**—It appears Santonio Holmes is sticking around—just as the New York Jets said he would.

By remaining on the roster through the second day of the NFL's waiver period Tuesday, the talented but troublesome wide receiver will get \$15.25 million in guaranteed money over the next two seasons. A clause in Holmes' five-year, \$45 million contract, signed last offseason, kicked in Wednesday morning.

Holmes' future appeared murky with the Jets after a tumultuous season in which he feuded with quarterback Mark Sanchez and the offensive line, and was benched during the season finale in Miami for arguing in the huddle.

Still, owner Woody Johnson, general manager Mike Tannenbaum and coach Rex Ryan all insisted that Holmes would remain with the team despite the squabbles.

Holmes, already guaranteed his salary for next season, had a \$7.5 million guarantee for the 2013 season kick in after Tuesday. While the Jets could still theoretically cut him or try to trade him, the financial commitment makes that an unlikely scenario.

Harbaugh said during his time in Baltimore, Williams "made a valuable and lasting contribution. I especially enjoyed getting to

know him as a person, and I have the utmost respect for him.

"He was great to be around and to work with every single day."

So, New York is stuck hoping that Holmes can work out his issues with his teammates—primarily Sanchez—and return to the playmaking form that Ryan and the Jets became so enamored of when they re-signed him last July.

"To dismiss some of the good things that Santonio has done for the two years he's been here, he's been a tremendous player for us," Ryan said on Jan. 2. "He's won a ton of games for this franchise. And he's been a good teammate."

Johnson said a few weeks ago that the team intended to bring Holmes back, and it had nothing to do with his big contract.

"He may be one of the best players we've ever had here," Johnson said. "I think you could look at his talent level as extraordinarily talented."

Holmes, acquired from Pittsburgh in 2010 for a fifth-round draft pick, played a key role in the Jets' run to their second straight AFC championship game two seasons ago. But things turned sour for the former Super Bowl MVP this past season.

He openly criticized the Jets' offensive line for not giving Sanchez enough time to throw downfield, and ESPNNewY-

ork.com reported that the two clashed at a late-season meeting. Several players questioned Holmes' captaincy throughout the season.

The capper came during the Jets' loss to the Dolphins, when former offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer benched Holmes after he argued with teammates in the huddle. The television broadcast caught Holmes being restrained by tight end Dustin Keller on the field as the wide receiver and right tackle Wayne Hunter yelled at each other. Holmes sat on the bench sulking late in the game while the Jets came up short in a bid to beat the Dolphins.

He finished with 51 receptions for a career-low 654 yards, while also catching eight touchdown passes.

Ryan acknowledged he made a mistake by not having "the pulse" of the locker room and for naming the team's six captains, including Holmes. He said no one will wear the captain's "C" on their jersey anymore, adding that it's imperative the take a larger role on the offense and instill the team chemistry that was clearly lacking as the Jets finished 8-8 and missed the playoffs.

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# 2012 Saipan Little League Practice Sessions

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



CNMI national team pitcher Joshua Jones, fourth from left, gives Junior Division Falcons players some tips on how to pickoff runners from the mound during Saturday's practice at Micro Beach.



A Rays pitcher fires home a high fastball in Saturday's practice held at Koblerville Elementary School.



A Junior Aces first baseman fields a throw from shortstop during Saturday's practice held in Koblerville. The 2012 Saipan Little League Baseball is expected to start soon.



A Junior Aces outfielder fires home during relay drills in Koblerville.



A Junior Falcons outfielder fires home during relay drills.



Junior Ol'Aces third baseman Allen Cepeda fires a throw over to second base during Saturday's practice at Koblerville Elementary School.



A Junior Falcons third baseman fields a pickoff throw from the pitcher.



A Rays batter waits for a pitch during Saturday's practice held at Koblerville Elementary School.

## Activity Schedule for February 10, 2012



NMBA Gym will be temporarily closed due to the installation of taraflex flooring. The renovation of the badminton courts will be completed by February 12, 2012. For the meantime, members and players will be using the Gillette Multipurpose Gym for badminton practices starting February 1, 2012.



**Northern Marianas Badminton Association**  
 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 (Morning practices)  
  
 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM  
 (Evening practices)



**2012 Men's B Futsal League**  
 There are no games scheduled for today. Games will resume on Monday, February 13, 2012.





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# Saipan Tribune Sports



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Tan sets swim record in 200m fly

### Aim Low notches Rocball championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Don't let the team name fool you. Aim Low aspired for the highest honor in the 2011 Rocball

Fall League and went on to win the championship against the Teachers yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Aim Low wrapped up the best-of-five title series after a juiced-out victory in Game 4, 34-24. The newly crowned champion took the last two games in the series and prevailed in Game 1, while the Teacher's won only once (Game 2).

Playing for Aim Low were J.R. Gechig, Riden Fiden, A.J. Aguilar, and Y.J. Nakayama. Gechig, who had a so-so performance in Games 2 and 3, came out swinging in the title-clinching Game 4, scoring 12 points. Gechig had four aces and two kees, while Fiden continued his consistency in the last three games of the series, chipping in six points off one kee, one ace, and one xunk. Fiden nailed 10 points in Game 2 and contributed four in Game 3. Nakayama managed to

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Aim Low's A.J. Aguilar stops a serve during Game 1 of their title series in the Rocball league against the Teachers last Monday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tsunami Saipan's Angel Marie Tan, seen here competing in a tournament late last year, now owns the CNMI age group record (girls 11 to 12) in the 200m butterfly.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**T**sunami Saipan Swimming Center's Angel Marie Tan has added a new entry to the CNMI record books after posting 3:01.62 in the 200m butterfly during the All Island Invitational 1.



Northern Marianas Swimming Federation certified Tan's record time in the girls 11 to 12 during a meeting last night. The Tsunami Saipan swimmer made this feat dur-

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## CNMI to field 2 boys teams in MBT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

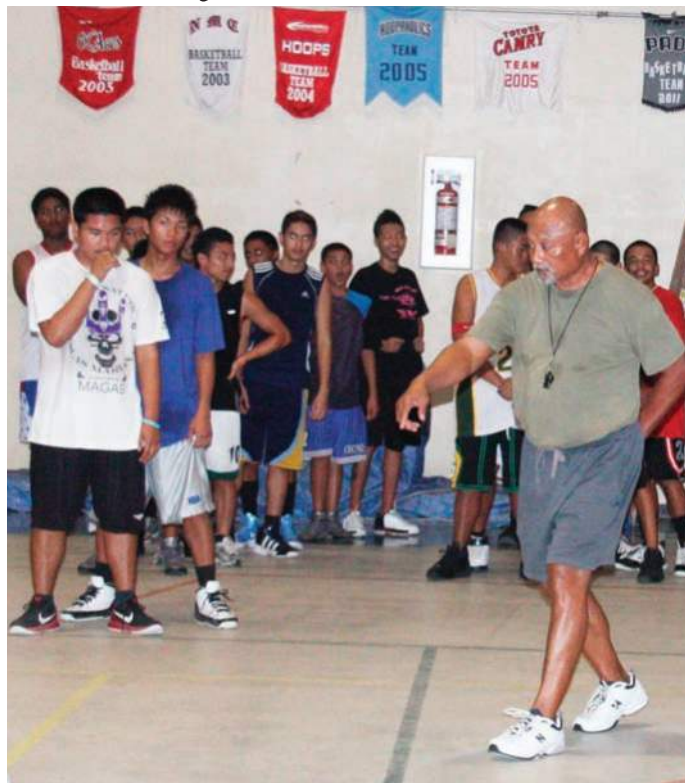
The CNMI will now have two teams in the boys division of the 2012 U17 Micronesian Basketball Tournament.

"Because we have a lot of young boys that came and are still trying out it has been decided that we field two teams," said team manager and trainer Rufino Aguon in an email to Saipan Tribune.

"Team A is composed of the bigger and more experience players while Team B will have the younger ones," he added.

Aguon also explained that having two teams in MBT will help the CNMI develop young players and coaches alike.

National Team player Quincy Johnson will coach Team A, while Ed Manalili will assist him. Omar Ajoste, who coaches the Sonics in various youth



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rufino Aguon points out a play to players who joined the first day of the tryouts for the CNMI U17 Team last month at Northern Marianas College Gymnasium.

leagues, will call the shots for Team B and will be assisted by former CNMI national player Edsel Mendoza.

Last night, the four coaches were scheduled to select the members of their respective teams from the pool of players who started joining the tryouts mid last month at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium. More than 30 players are attending the series of training sessions held every Tuesday and Thursday.

The U17 MBT will be held on Saipan from May 7 to 12 with the host battling teams from Guam, Yap, and Palau. The CNMI being the host country has the luxury of fielding two teams in the boys division. The girls division has its own competition and the Commonwealth is expected to have only one team.

The MBT on Saipan will be the second event in the region since the Micronesian Basketball Confederation was

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## Northern Passage kicks off tomorrow

The 3rd Northern Passage will be held tomorrow with proceeds from the road and MTB races going to the family of slain Godfather bartender Emerita "Emie" Romero.

Registration begins at 6am, while races starts at 7am at Mariana Resort. Entry fee is only \$20 and raffle prizes will be given away, including a free entry to the 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Each of the road and MTB division will have three courses. For the road championship course, bikers will head to the four corners of Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, the Grotto, and Banzai Cliff and return to Mariana Resort for the finish. In the sports course, participants will only pedal up to Bird Island, the Grotto, and Banzai Cliff and back to the finish line, while the rookie course will bring bikers up to Bird Island and Banzai Cliff and back

to Mariana Resort.

For the MBT championship course, bike will climb up to Marianas Country Club, turn right at the top of the hill onto the trail, turn left at the million-gallon tank, ride coral road behind golf course, pass the FEBC road and turn right onto the paved road, ride up to Kimikaze trail, ride to the bottom, cross the road into the Autobahn trail, and turn right heading to paved road toward the Grotto.

From the Grotto, riders must turn left to Santati trail, ride to the junction, turn right to the coral road towards Cowtown, continue right toward Banzai trail, and turn left to Banzai trail until emerging at Banzai Cliff. From Banzai, bikers should head back to Mariana Resort, turn left and ride up the FEBC road, turn right at the top of the hill and ride the coral road behind Mariana Resort.

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